Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 249 | SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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**OPINION METER**

**This week's poll:**
Have you donated to victims of Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines and the tsunamis in Samoa and American Samoa?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

**PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS**
**PHASE 6**
October 16, 2009

**Phase 6:** The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

*Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization*

## INSIDE

**False Alarm**
A 6-year-old boy was found hiding in a cardboard box in his family's garage attic Thursday after being feared aboard a homemade helium balloon that hurtled 50 miles through the sky on live television.

Nation...Page 10

**Storm Approaches**
Officials told residents still reeling from mudslides that recently buried hundreds in the northern Philippine mountains to be ready to abandon their homes again if a storm approaching Friday becomes the third typhoon in a month to hit the country.

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Senior DOD officials meet with GovGuam. **PAGE 3**

# Labor: 'Umbrella permits' no adverse effect on job preference to US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The two-year "umbrella permits" that will be issued to thousands of alien workers have no adverse effect on the employment opportunities for locals or U.S. citizens in the CNMI, according to an official at the Department of Labor yesterday.

Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan stated that some people claimed that the new two-year permits program will limit the opportunities for U.S. citizens to get jobs.

"That is wrong. In fact, the new permits help protect the economy and also protect U.S. citizen jobs. All of the prior-

*See LABOR on Page 4*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Some of the lawmakers present during yesterday's continuation of the oversight hearing on the Department of Public Health by the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

## 'Oversight hearing on DPH may be mere electioneering'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Health Secretary Esther Muna yesterday said if the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee had really wanted to help the Department of Public Health, it should have done so from the time they were elected into office and not only when the Nov. 7 election is coming up.

The House committee chaired by Rep. Ralph Torres (R-

*See OVERSIGHT on Page 4*

## $600,000 water project now serving over 1,000 customers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An almost $600,000 worth of federal funded water project has been completed, and now serves over 1,000 customers in Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, and portions of Tanapag.

Yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial led officials in cutting the ceremonial ribbon for the completion of the As Matuis water wells and booster pump construction project right beside the 1-million-gallon water tank along Matansa Drive.

The project consists of connecting six existing water wells into the 1-million-gallon water reservoir, thereby doubling the water production from only 436,320 gallons per day to 851,040 gallons a day.

*See $600,000 on Page 4*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
From left, Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Keith Aughenbaugh of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, cut the ceremonial ribbon for the completion of the almost $600,000 As Matuis water wells and booster pump project yesterday. RNV Construction owner Ruel Villacrusis and Abe Malae of the Commonwealth of the Utilities Corp. (not in photo) also joined the ribbon cutting. Inset shows Camacho and Fitial play jokes shortly before the start of the ceremony beside the 1 million gallon water tank in As Matuis.

## Giving babies Tylenol may blunt vaccines' effects

**ON THE NET**
Lancet: http://www.lancet.com

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Giving babies Tylenol to prevent fever when they get childhood vaccinations may backfire and make the shots a little less effective, surprising new research suggests.

It is the first major study to tie reduced immunity to the use of fever-lowering medicines. Although the effect was small and the vast majority of kids still got enough protec-

*See GIVING on Page 4*

AP
Syringes filled with an influenza vaccine are piled in a container at Rocky Mountain Primary Care's Thornton, Colo., location, in this, Oct. 26, 2006 file photo.

# Local

## Fitial urged not to reprogram ILS money

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Former senator and Tinian mayoralty candidate Ramon M. Dela Cruz yesterday urged Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to reconsider his decision to reprogram remaining funds from Tinian's instrument landing system.

Fitial on Tuesday declared a state of emergency on Tinian, a move that allows the reprogramming of the remaining $3 million earmarked for the ILS project to go to the rehabilitation of Tinian's outer seawall and piers.

Dela Cruz claimed that there is no real emergency on island to merit the declaration made by the governor.

"There is no such pressing problem at the dock today," read his letter to the governor, claiming that it is only clear that San Nicolas has no real plan for the use of such money.

"He is asking $2 million to $3 million to repair the outer seawall. That project has been estimated at over $50 million by the U.S. Navy. Nothing serious can be achieved with less than 5 percent of what is needed," he said.

Dela Cruz alleges that San Nicolas only wants cash to protect his unauthorized abalone and seaweed farm in the harbor for which he has no proper permits.

A check with Commonwealth Ports Authority, however, showed that San Nicolas was issued a permit to use portion of its seaport property on Tinian for the abalone project.

San Nicolas, when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* Thursday, said he was sick and declined to give an interview.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr., for his part, said the governor has yet to read Dela Cruz's letter.

Tinian Legislative Delegation Chairman Sen. Joseph Mendiola, meantime, came to the defense of the mayor.

"I don't see any sense in that, because CIP money is basically designed for infrastructure and capital improvement projects. There's no way it can be used in abalone project as what he (Dela Cruz) is saying," Mendiola said.

On the claim that there is no real emergency on Tinian, Mendiola said, "Do we need to wait until the entire seawall breaks down before we declare an emergency? In order to get money to rehabilitate the harbor and seawall, we have to justify the reason and this is it…the dilapidated condition of the seawall," he said.

Mendiola said once the entire seawall and harbor breaks down, no activity will happen at the seaport and it will ultimately hurt the island's economy.

*See FITIAL on Page 4*

## DEQ red-flags 7 sites on Saipan, 2 on Rota

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on seven sites on Saipan and two on Rota and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said samples collected from Plumeria Hotel, Aqua Resort Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Sugar Dock on Saipan and Teteto Beach and Guata Beach on Rota contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria'enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Managaha and Tinian were not sampled this week. DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on the Saipan's coast. Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, please send email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any question. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN'S HOTTEST CLUB
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# Senior DOD officials meet with GovGuam

Gov. Felix P. Camacho last Thursday met with a U.S. Department of Defense delegation to discuss efforts to advance the Guam Military Buildup Program and better understand the impacts of the move of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa to Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Under Secretary of the Navy Robert O. Work presents Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho with a gift.

Dr. Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, and the Honorable Robert O. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, are leading a delegation of DOD officials to Guam as part of a Pacific tour.

"This is a significant visit for Guam," said Gov. Camacho. "These individuals have been tasked to ensure a successful military buildup program, and we will do all we can to assist in those efforts."

The 30-minute meeting touched on progress updates on military buildup activities in Japan and Okinawa and on local efforts to strengthen infrastructure in advance of the U.S. Marines' move to Guam. Joining Dr. Robyn and Deputy Secretary Work on the tour is Gen. James Amos, assistant commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps; Brig. Gen. William Beydler, director of strategy and plans of the U.S. Marine Corps; David Bice, director of the Joint Guam Program Office; and Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel, Commander Joint Region Marianas.

"The government of Guam was praised by these national leaders for our efforts to prepare our community for this significant movement of military personnel and assets," said Gov. Camacho. "Continued discussions with the Department of Defense and our collective effort as a community will lay the groundwork to continue what has been a long-standing relationship between the people of Guam and the U.S. Marines."

The DOD officials are visiting Guam after discussions in Japan and Okinawa and will leave later this week for Hawaii.

For more information, please contact Shawn Gumataotao at (671) 475-9303. ***(PR)***

# *Territory governors urge White House support in health care legislation*

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, along with other territory governors, sent a joint letter this week urging the White House to ensure that the territories receive equitable treatment under the health care reform legislation currently before the U.S. Senate.

The letter was signed by Gov. Camacho, Gov. John P. de Jongh Jr. of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

In the letter to Rahm Emanuel, White House chief of staff, the three governors requested that the final version of the health care reform bill include provisions to ensure that individuals from territories be eligible to participate in the new health insurance exchange and for the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) that will be available to the 50 states.

"We are asking that the final version of the health care reform bill ensures residents of the territories have the same access to health care as those on the mainland," said Gov. Camacho. "I sincerely hope that the White House understands our people's need to receive quality health services and acts accordingly."

The letter states that the White House is working to merge and finalize two separate health care bills from the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

For more information, please contact Shawn Gumataotao at 475-9305 or 483-0564. ***(PR)***

# Maratita's face on campaign billboards spray painted

House of Representatives hopeful Janet Ulloa Maratita yesterday found out that some of her campaign billboards were vandalized.

Four billboards, including one with a back-to-back image, were spray painted, said Maratita, who is running for Precinct I under the Republican Party.

Maratita said it was her son who noticed yesterday morning that her face on the billboards was the one spray painted.

The vandalized campaign materials were installed near the St. Jude intersection in Koblerville, As Perdido, and Finasisu.

Maratita decided to get back the billboards.

"Mine is lining with the rest of the candidates, but the person specifically targeted myself," she said.

Maratita appealed to have clean election.

"There's somebody out there who hates me for whatever reason. To the person or persons responsible for this malicious act, I hope you find comfort and peace within you. May God bless you," she said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

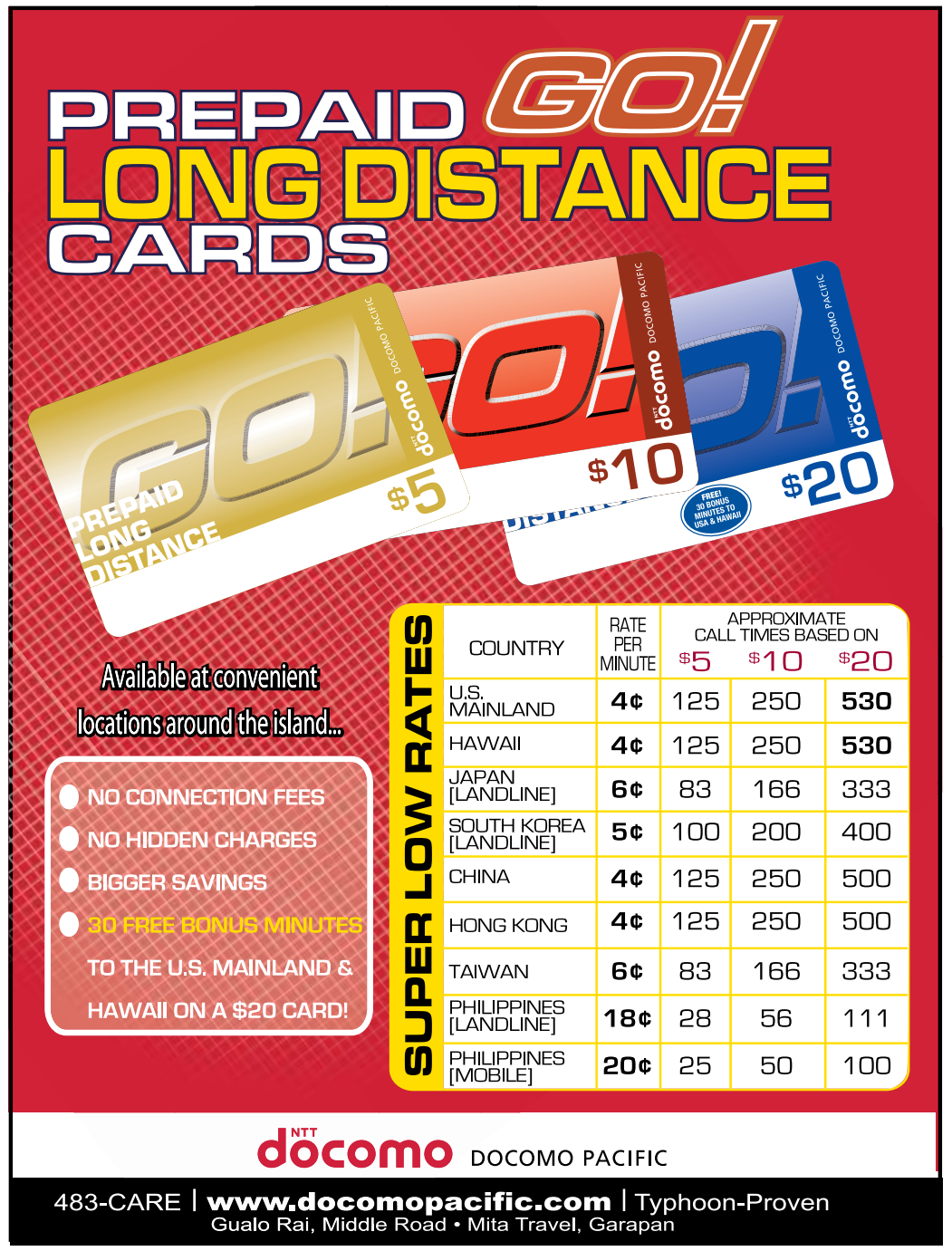
# Air Force to conduct live fire exercises on FDM

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Air Force will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 10am to 1am on Oct. 19, 21-22 and 1pm-7pm on Oct. 20.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-6114. ***(PR)***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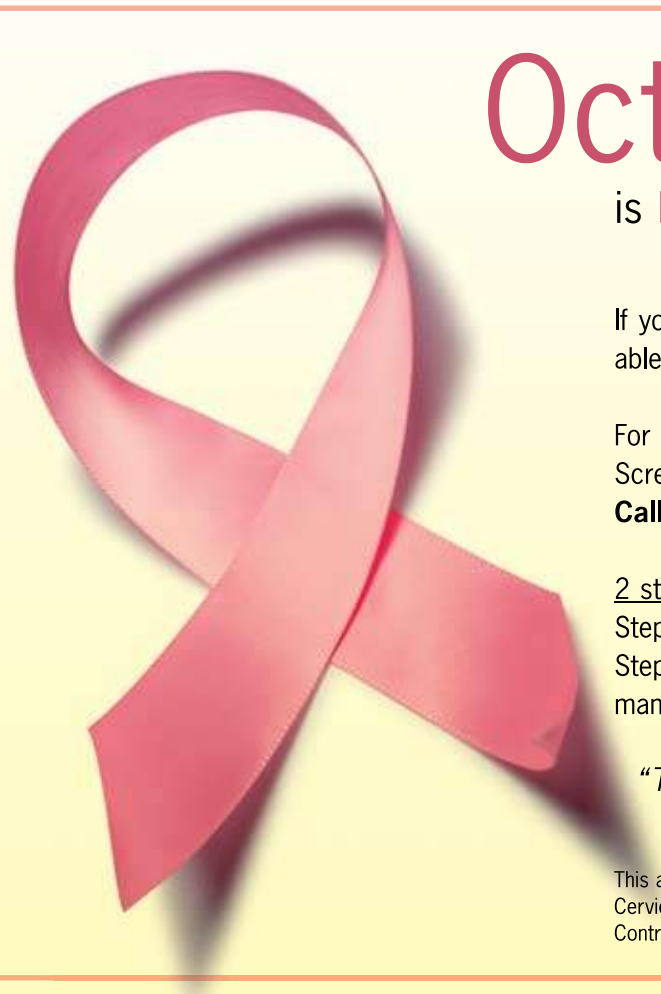

# October

is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

If you are a woman over **40** years old you may be able to get a MAMMOGRAM at no cost to you!

For the month of October, the Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCSP) will have the **Mammogram Call-Ins** activity.

2 steps to getting your mammogram:
Step 1. Get a Clinical Breast Exam done (CBE)
Step 2. Call the **BCSP** office at **236-8731/27** to get a mammogram appointment.

*"The key to mammography is that you get it regularly – once is not enough."*

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

# EMO cancels high surf advisory as Lupit moved farther away

The Emergency Management Office yesterday afternoon canceled the high surf and small craft advisory as Tropical Storm Lupit moved farther away from the Marianas and approached the Philippines.

EMO said surf heights associated with the tropical storm continued to subside as the storm moved away.

EMO said the surf on east facing reefs has fallen bellow hazardous levels.

"Buoy observations and wind reports show that winds and seas have decreased below small craft advisory criteria," EMO said.

As of 1pm, packing maximum sustained winds at 70 miles per hour, Tropical Storm Lupit was moving west-northwest away from Yap.

At that time, the center of Tropical Storm Lupit was 280 miles north of Yap, 445 miles north-northeast of Koror, 540 miles west of Guam, and 615 miles west of Saipan.

The National Weather Service in Guam predicts Lupit to become a typhoon during the next 12 hours.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration yesterday predicted Lupit to enter Philippine territory last night.

Lupit's trajectory appears to be Northern Luzon of the Philippines. Northern Luzon is still reeling from the effects of Typhoon Parma, which reportedly made landfall on the area thrice. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## GIVING

*From Page 1*

tion from vaccines, the results make "a compelling case" against routinely giving Tylenol right after vaccination, say doctors from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

They wrote an editorial accompanying the study, published in Friday's issue of the British medical journal, Lancet.

The study only looked at preventive use of Tylenol—not whether it is OK to use after a fever develops.

Tylenol or its generic twin, acetaminophen, is widely recommended as a painkiller for babies. Many parents give it right before or after a shot to prevent fever and fussiness, and some doctors recommend this. The CDC's vaccine advisory panel says it is a reasonable thing to do for children at high risk of seizures, which can be triggered by fevers.

However, fever after a vaccine isn't necessarily bad—it's a natural part of the body's response. Curbing fever, especially the first time a baby gets a vaccine, also seems to curb the immune response and the amount of protective antibodies that are made, the new study found.

It was led by military and government scientists in the Czech Republic and was done at 10 medical centers in that Eastern European country. It involved 459 healthy infants, 9 to 16 weeks old, who were getting vaccines against polio, pneumonia, meningitis, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis and other childhood diseases.

Half were given three doses of Calpol, or paracetamol—a Tylenol-like brand sold in Europe—during the first day after vaccination. The others were given nothing besides the vaccines.

Babies given the painkiller were significantly less likely to develop a fever—42 percent versus 66 percent of the others—and very few in either group developed a high one.

However, lower rates of protective antibody levels from several vaccines were seen in the group given the drug. Levels remained significantly lower in this group after booster vaccines, given when the babies were 12 to 15 months old.

Next, the researchers looked at 10 other vaccine studies and found some supporting evidence that using Tylenol to prevent fevers at the time of vaccination may curb immune system response rates. The same may not be true of using the drug to treat fevers after they develop.

The research was sponsored by Belgium-based GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, which makes all the vaccines used in the study. Some authors have financial ties to the company, including owning stock in it, and Glaxo had a role in reporting the results.

Even with the fever-lowering drugs, more than 90 percent of children in the Czech study achieved protection from the various vaccines after the booster dose, so the effect of lower levels of antibodies on any individual might be small, Dr. Robert Chen and two other CDC doctors wrote in an editorial.

Yet the consistency of findings from other studies makes "a compelling case against" routine use of fever-lowering medicines during immunization, they write.

It's not known if Tylenol or other painkillers might reduce vaccine response in adults, but they are less likely to develop a fever after vaccination or to be so bothered by it, said Dr. John Treanor, a vaccine specialist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y., who had no role in the study.

Tylenol is the only member of the family of over-the-counter pain relievers that is not a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, or NSAID.

"There's been speculation for a long time that the use of NSAIDs might have an effect" on antibody production after vaccination, but this is far from proved, Treanor said.

Given that so few children develop high fevers after vaccines, skipping the meds unless fever develops "may be the way to go," he said.

## OVERSIGHT

*From Page 1*

Saipan), who is running as a senator, is investigating issues such as mismanagement, doctor shortage, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems at DPH.

Yesterday marked the third day of HEW's oversight hearing on DPH, focusing on hiring of doctors, the Community Guidance Center, the long-delayed opening of the hemodialysis center, and medical billing and records, among other things.

As of 4pm, the hearing was still ongoing.

Among other things, the HEW Committee had pointed out to DPH only on Thursday and yesterday that the Fiscal Year 2009 budget law gave 100 full-time employee positions that may be available for DPH, as well as the Department of Public Safety.

Muna said had DPH known 100 positions could be made available for the department, it could have grabbed the chance to hire more.

She, however, said that even if lawmakers told them about this option months before, the Legislature has not identified sources of funding to pay for these employees that may include badly needed specialists and other medical personnel.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a separate interview, echoed Muna's concern that the Legislature did not identify funding source for the "FTE pool."

Fitial added that the sincerity of the House committee in helping DPH can be defined by the timeliness of the oversight hearings.

"But I welcome the Legislature's conduct of the oversight hearing. DPH has nothing to hide," he said.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) pointed out the 100 FTE positions again in yesterday's hearing.

Palacios, when asked for comment, said it is "very unfortunate" that some view the ongoing hearings as electioneering.

He said the committee has long asked for hearings but DPH officials, including Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan, and other officials in acting or permanent capacity have always asked for delays because they're not available.

"We just can't stop what we need to do just because it's an election year. The issues that the hospital is facing are bigger than this election. Whoever is elected will face the same problems. Being an election year should not be a reason for us to stop what we need to do," said Palacios, who is running as a lieutenant governor, with Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) as his running mate.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), when asked for comment, said CHC's "crisis is so acute, so severe, and far reaching that the timing is irrelevant."

"We can spend our time speculating about motives or we can try to do the right thing," she said.

In yesterday's hearing, House HEW Committee vice chair David Apatang (R-Saipan) cited a written complaint about the nurses' mistreatment of patients in the psychiatric unit.

Community Guidance Center director Josephine Sablan said she's not been made aware of the complaint.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Ernest, seated beside Sablan, asked Apatang for a copy of the written complaint so that CGC could help investigate the specific allegations.

Apatang, however, said the complaint letter is "confidential."

Muna, in an interview later, said Apatang and other lawmakers could have shared with DPH the complaints they have received so they would be properly addressed rather than "compile them and wait for the hearing." She said this is "witch hunting" by lawmakers.

"We are the ones who should be given those complaints. They're saying they're confidential. If you want us to take care of the problems, give it to us so we can take care of the problems. But they're keeping it and collecting it for this hearing. I just don't understand that," she added.

Muna, whose real job title is chief financial officer at DPH and who has a master's degree in hospital administration, said she thinks the House HEW Committee and DPH could have achieved more together if they meet one-on-one rather than through an oversight hearing.

During yesterday's hearing, Muna said Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez is expected to be back on Monday.

Torres, as committee chair, plans to meet with Villagomez and may call for the continuation of the oversight hearings as early as Tuesday.

## LABOR

*From Page 1*

ity protections for U.S. citizens stay in place. We have always been very clear about that," Pangelinan said.

The CNMI government, through Labor special counsel Deanne C. Siemer, special legal counsel to Gov. Benigno Fitial, Howard Willens, and Labor deputy secretary Barry Hirshbein announced on Thursday during a press conference about the new policy of issuing "umbrella permits" to an estimated 13,000 alien workers.

The Labor officials said the "umbrella permit" will stabilize the workforce, protect employers and employees, and prevent undue damage to the economy.

Labor is aiming to print the permits by Oct. 20, 2009 and start the distribution on Oct. 22, 2009. Oct. 30, 2009 is the target date to finish most of the distribution.

Labor said an alien worker should hold the "umbrella permit" for the entire two-year period unless Labor revokes it.

The federalization law states that any Commonwealth-issued permit that is in existence on Nov. 27, 2009 will be honored for two years after the law's transition date. The transition date is currently set for Nov. 28, 2009.

Pangelinan said when an employer wishes to hire or renew a foreign worker, that employer must post a Job Vacancy Announcement so that any U.S. citizen who is looking for a job can go to Labor's website and see that job availability.

Pangelinan said any time a U.S. citizen applies for a job that might otherwise be taken by a foreign worker, Labor monitors the situation.

"We require a report from the employer on who was hired. If any employer is not complying with the law, which gives preference to U.S. citizen workers, then we may take action to revoke all their foreign worker permits," the director said.

## FITIAL

*From Page 2*

"This is all purely political [game]," he said of Dela Cruz's accusations.

Dela Cruz agreed that rebuilding the outer wall is important, but he believes that San Nicolas should have addressed that issue four years ago.

He said stimulus fund can be a good source of money for the project but was not identified by the mayor.

Dela Cruz told the governor and local leaders that airport improvements are more pressing issues at this time.

"The airport will produce significant revenues," he said, adding that with ILS and the fuel farm in place, charter aircraft can begin arriving at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Dela Cruz is running under the Republican Party, while San Nicolas is the mayoralty standard-bearer of the Covenant Party.

## $600,000

*From Page 1*

Officials said the project means more water in the faucet for nearby villages and for longer hours.

The project also involved the construction of a booster pump and chlorination building, replacing the existing shack pump and tin roofed-chlorination building.

Fitial, in his brief remarks, said 1,079 customers are served by the newly completed water project.

"The 1-million-gallon water tank was built by former Sen. Kumoi (Guerrero) but we supplied water to it," Fitial told the crowd that gathered for the ribbon cutting.

Fitial and Keith Aughenbaugh of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs said the project amounted to $598,224, of which $449,000 was funded by OIA and the remaining $150,000 was from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The CNMI Water Task Force/CUC awarded the contract to RNV Construction which began construction on Aug. 4, 2008, said task force chair Pete Sasamoto.

After two change orders, RNV Construction completed the project on Sept. 1, said RNV Construction president Ruel Villacrusis.

SSFM International Inc. was the construction management for the project, represented during the ceremony by Greg Q. Castro.

Floor Leader Joseph Camacho of Precinct 4 thanked those who made the water project come into fruition.

Besides Fitial, Camacho, Aughenbaugh, and Villacrusis, the other officials who joined the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon to officially mark the project's completion were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and CUC assistant executive director Abe Malae.

Malae, in his brief remarks, said they are now looking at budgeting for the operation and maintenance of the new and improved facilities.

"We want to make sure there's budget to take care of this because you know what happens without operation and maintenance. It will deteriorate and result in poor service," he said.

Villacrusis and other RNV officials, in an interview, said that the 1-million-gallon water tank is now filled to up to 18 feet, compared to the previous level of only up to 6 feet.

"The construction of the booster station also improved water pressure in As Matuis, San Roque, Marpi, and parts of Tanapag. CUC customers in these areas used to receive water only from 4am to 7am but now they can get water from 4am to 12 noon and sometimes 24 hours on successive days," said Villacrusis.

The project also included the replacement of pressure reducing valves and pressure sustaining valves in two stations.

# Obama restores White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— Fulfilling a promise to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, President Barack Obama Thursday signed an executive order reestablishing a White House program to improve their quality of life through increased participation in Federal programs.

Babauta

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan was among the members of CAPAC, the Congressional Asian Pacific Americans Caucus, present for the White House ceremony.

"President Obama made a commitment to restore the AAPI initiative. Today he has kept his promise to Asian American and Pacific Islanders and we are all very grateful," remarked Sablan.

"Especially, because this is a time of great change—in health care and immigration—change that will impact our communities.

"Now with a voice in the White House, representing our interests, we can be assured that these successful reforms will also fulfill their promise of benefit of all Americans, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

The Obama Executive Order restores the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders begun by President Bill Clinton in 1999. It aims to increase the participation of the AAPI community in the full range of Federal programs, including health, human services, housing, education, labor, transportation, and economic and community development, areas in which Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans may be underserved.

Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA), chair of CAPAC, speaking on behalf of the Caucus thanked the President for his leadership. "He has restored its broad mission to ensure that all federal agencies are addressing the needs of underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander communities."

The co-chairs of the Initiative are Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

The first Pacific Islander to be made an Assistant Secretary at the Department of the Interior, Anthony Babauta, was present at the signing. ""I look forward to serving in the Obama administration to help improve the quality of life and create opportunities for all Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans," Babauta said. ***(PR)***

# CDD candidates forum on Saipan postponed, on Tinian set for Oct. 31

The CNMI Council on Development Disabilities candidates forum on Saipan, originally set for Oct. 21 at the Saipan World Resort, has been postponed until further notice.

Meanwhile, the candidates forum for Tinian is set on Oct. 31, 10am at the Tinian Elementary School.

The candidates forum, which is inviting candidates running for the House of Representatives and Senate, allows individuals with disabilities an opportunity to exercise their rights to speak and be heard as members of this community in areas of education, transportation, employment, housing, and health.

The council is inviting participants of the program, families of children with disabilities, private and non-profit organizations, and state agency representatives who advocate for people with disabilities to take part in this forum.

The council is asking all interested candidates to call its office to confirm their participation. Contact persons are Ray D. Diaz and Lillian S. Ada at 664-7001. ***(PR)***

## COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
P.O. Box 500470 Saipan. MP 96950-0470
Tel: (670) 664.VOTE / Fax: (670) 664-8689
http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2009, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, currently located at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

I. Preliminary Matters
   a. Roll call
   b. Adoption of agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business

   a. Election Procedures

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)


## DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on October 20th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before October 20th.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.**

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than October 20th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

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Life in Motion

## CNMI ARRA Public Forum

### American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

**SAIPAN**
When: October 20th 2009 (TUESDAY)
Where: Multi-Purpose Center
Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

**TINIAN**
When: October 21st 2009 (WEDNESDAY)
Where: Tinian Public Library
Time: 12:00 - 2:00pm

**ROTA**
When: October 22nd 2009 (THURSDAY)
Where: Rota Round House
Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm

RECOVERY.GOV

**WE ENCOURAGE THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ATTEND!**

Any questions/concerns please contact Alfreda Camacho at (670) 664-3015

This advertisement was made possible through a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 249

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
**Mark Rabago** ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

## Fanning Mideast flames

Israel may have achieved its military goals against Hamas with last winter's offensive in the Gaza Strip, but the country has since faced increasing political isolation, all the more so as U.S. efforts to restart peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians have faltered. Among the fallout: Turkey banned Israel from a planned NATO military exercise this week, and today the U.N. Human Rights Council is to take up a report that accuses both Israel and Hamas of having violated international law in Gaza. In response, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu angrily announced that he would not pursue peacemaking if Israelis are to be accused of war crimes for defending themselves. His irritation is understandable, but threatening to abandon the pursuit of peace is not. Rather, Israel should launch its own, independent investigation into the allegations of wrongdoing—and pursue peace negotiations.

The Gaza report was produced by a U.N. mission headed by South African jurist Richard Goldstone. The Israeli government refused to cooperate with the investigation and then rejected the results as biased. Palestinians embraced the accusations against Israel while ignoring charges against Hamas. The U.S. government called the account "deeply flawed."

The 500-page report charges that Israel used disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians, from a punishing economic blockade to the assault that left 13 Israelis and about 1,400 Palestinians dead. Israeli forces illegally razed government buildings and infrastructure, fired white phosphorous shells and flechette missiles in urban areas, and used Palestinians as human shields, it says. Unfortunately, the report treads lightly on Hamas, which invited military retaliation by shelling from heavily populated areas and taking refuge among civilians. Even so, the charges are grave: Armed groups indiscriminately have fired 8,000 rockets and mortars into Israel since 2001, deliberate attacks on civilian areas that caused four deaths and hundreds of injuries; captured Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, deemed a prisoner of war, has been denied his human rights; and Gaza authorities carried out postwar extrajudicial executions.

Hamas will almost surely thwart any objective Palestinian inquiry, but Israel should not follow suit. Failing serious probes, the report recommended that the cases be referred to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. That wouldn't help the cause of peacemaking. As long as Israelis and Palestinians are not perceived to be making progress on peace, the world tends to focus on their warring past. The Goldstone report is but one more argument for moving forward to resolve the deeper issues that have plagued the two societies for decades.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

# The other Monroe Doctrine

**By HARLOW GILES UNGER**
Special to the Los Angeles Times

*Unger is the author, most recently, of "The Last Founding Father: James Monroe and a Nation's Call to Greatness."*

As Barack Obama tries to address soaring rates of unemployment and home foreclosure, he would do well to bone up on a predecessor, James Monroe. In 1819, at a time when mortgage foreclosures had forced thousands of Americans from their homes and unemployment had soared to 16.8 percent, President Monroe presented a plan to Congress for restoring the nation's economy.

At the time, tens of thousands of Americans were streaming westward across the Appalachian Mountains to buy federal land at $2 an acre, borrowing more than they could ever repay. As land prices soared, banks lent every penny they had and more—no questions asked. Many banks issued their own colorful bank notes—backed by no-one-knew-what. One Rhode Island bank with a capitalization of only $45 issued bank notes with a total face value of $800,000.

With demand for land all but insatiable, speculators rushed to borrow bank notes as fast as banks could print them and buy land to resell to gullible would-be settlers, who expected to repay loans from crops they hoped to plant on the properties. The frenzy was so great that purchasers never checked whether the speculators actually owned the lands they sold or whether they sold the same lands multiple times.

Concerned over runaway speculation and fraudulent land sales, Congress passed a law requiring banks to back the paper they issued with specie—coins, gold, silver and so forth. As the first few insolvent banks closed their doors, depositors staged a run on the rest and forced bankers to try to call in loans or shut their doors. More than 1,000 closed, and the bubble popped. Speculators, borrowers, homeowners, banks and the government were broke. Thousands of people lost their homes; tens of thousands had no work; and Republicans in Congress refused to expand the already enormous federal deficit to help them.

Outraged at congressional inaction, Monroe began working to shame Congress into passing an economic recovery program. Demanding "increased harmony" from Congress, he scolded obstructionists in and out of government. "Discord does not belong to our system," he thundered. "The American people ... constitute one great family with a common interest. ... Possessing as we do all the raw materials, the fruit of our own soil and industry, we ought not to depend in the degree we have done on supplies from other countries. ... The capital which nourishes our manufactures should be domestic."

Monroe ordered his secretary of the Treasury to disburse millions of dollars from the Bank of the United States—the 19th-century equivalent of the Federal Reserve—to help states build and expand the national infrastructure. Monroe put tens of thousands of Americans back to work building a vast network of roads, turnpikes and canals that linked every region of the nation with outlets to the sea and shipping routes to other continents.

A great new "National Road" linked the Potomac River to the Ohio River and opened the West to large-scale farming, with thousands of tons of grain, furs and other raw materials pouring over the Appalachians to Eastern manufacturers and cargo vessels in Eastern ports. Improvements in the steamboat lowered transportation costs and increased the speed with which goods traveled to market on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers and other waterways. And in one of the most spectacular engineering schemes the world had ever seen, the first 15 miles of the 360-mile-long Erie Canal opened in upper New York state. It eventually linked the Great Lakes with the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean and helped make the United States the wealthiest nation on Earth.

Monroe's plan ultimately ended the depression and ushered in the greatest period of prosperity the nation has known. As the economy recovered, government deficits turned into surpluses, and Monroe rejoiced. "At no period of our political existence," he declared, "have we had so much cause to felicitate ourselves at the prosperous and happy condition of our country. The abundant fruits of the Earth have filled it with plenty. ... In contemplating the happy situation of the United States ... I consider it my duty to recommend to Congress the repeal ... (of) internal taxes." And with that, Congress abolished all property taxes and other internal taxes.

With the rest of the world at war, Monroe refused to allow foreign enemies to provoke us into costly overseas entanglements. Instead of wasting national resources in overseas wars, he invested in rendering America's defenses impregnable and warned the world it had more to gain by trading with us than attacking us.

In the end, Monroe modernized the nation and created an "Era of Good Feelings" that united Americans and left his few opponents unable to even field a presidential candidate in the 1820 elections. Monroe became the only president other than George Washington to win election to the presidency unopposed.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# A Peace Prize to share

In one way or another, President Obama's critics will dog him all the way to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, and even his admirers will continue to have doubts about his accomplishments if not his promise.

He's getting a lot of advice on how to handle the moment when he accepts the prize, so here's an idea that may lift this discussion out of the partisan soup that is now the main course on our national agenda, whatever the issue.

The president should invite a high-profile and wide-ranging delegation of interests to accompany him. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Michael Mullen, representing diplomacy and arms in pursuit of peace. Greg Mortenson, the author of "Three Cups of Tea," who has spent years working for education and literacy (especially for girls) in mountainous parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Field representatives from organizations such as Refugees International, the International Rescue Committee (where I am a volunteer overseer), CARE, Save the Children and other groups doing the hard work of caring for the victims of war. Bill and Melinda Gates should be in his delegation, as well as Republican Sam Brownback, the senator from Kansas, who's been a tireless advocate of greater U.S. involvement to stop the genocide in Sudan.

Obama might think of inviting former President George H.W. Bush and praising the work done during the Reagan-Bush years in managing the collapse of the Soviet Union and, for example, the reunification of Germany in such an impressive fashion. Former President Bill Clinton and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke deserve mention for the Dayton Peace Accords, which stopped the slaughter in Bosnia.

The White House would have a long list of compassionate and effective organizations and individuals to choose from, and in his acceptance speech the president could remind the world that they've been at this for a long time, not just the past nine months. He could describe himself as the conspicuous symbol of their enduring efforts to win the peace or heal the wounds of war.

**By TOM BROKAW**
Special to The Washington Post

*Tom Brokaw is a special correspondent and former "Nightly News" anchor for NBC.*

If, as we're led to believe, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wanted to honor President Obama's determination to put a new face on America's efforts to shape a more peaceful world, what better way for him to respond than to share this distinguished prize with those who have been doing just that without sufficient recognition? Barack Obama's name will be the one on the peace prize, but his speech and his manner could become a gift for generations to come.

# Stalking victims live with fear that doesn't diminish easily

I was lucky, if you can call it that, to have been stalked before the digital age. Nearly 30 years ago, a stalker had to rely largely on land lines and the U.S. mail to instill fear, and a stalking victim had to rely largely on herself and her friends for protection.

I've been thinking about stalkers a lot lately, because of the Erin Andrews case and especially because of continuing debate over whether Andrews somehow "asked for it" because of her hair and her clothes and her looks. I'm no Erin Andrews, nor was I 30 years ago. But an August 2009 report by the Department of Justice says that during a recent 12-month period, 3.4 million people ages 18 or older were victims of stalking. They can't all have been pretty blond women with high-profile television jobs.

I was stalked long ago, before there were reports on stalking, before we even had a name for it. I first met my stalker, a fellow journalism student, when he asked to interview me as part of a class assignment. We sat outside, he asked me a few questions, and that was it—until his professor pulled me aside about a week later. She was worried, she said, about the tone of his story. She wouldn't show it to me, not because of privacy concerns but because she didn't want to upset me.

That was the beginning of two years of what I would describe as near-unrelenting hell. My stalker also wanted to be a sportswriter, so I saw him nearly every day, at every football and basketball practice, at every game, and of course every day in the halls of the J-school. I was always there, in the newsroom of the student paper, which had a glass front facing the hallway that led into the building. My stalker became a fixture at those windows, standing and staring in at me.

The phone calls started soon after. He never said a word. In fact, after the interview, he never spoke directly to me again, but he'd call nearly every night. Then the letters began—and for the first time, I was truly afraid for my life.

The letters—it's hard to talk about them, even after nearly 30 years. I learned later that my stalker was taking a religion class and a human sexuality class at the same time. The gist of what he had learned, apparently, was that God wanted us to have sex. I thought by now that sentence might make me laugh, but even now, all I remember is the terror of coming home at 2 a.m. from closing up the newspaper for the night and finding in my mailbox a 12-page letter—handwritten, front and back, single-spaced—containing graphic descriptions of God's wishes.

I lived with those letters, that wretched bundle of filth, in my cedar chest for 20 years before I finally got rid of them during my last move. Few people knew the entire story, and if something happened to me, I wanted the police to know where to look.

My friend Gene was with me one day when I pulled one of the letters out of the mailbox. He read it, and mobilized the troops. I wouldn't be left alone in the newsroom, ever. At practices, someone would always sit with me, at least one person and sometimes more. If I was seated near my stalker in the press box, the seating cards would be switched before the game to put as much distance between us as possible. One of the basketball players found out, and offered me a present: his switchblade, which he'd brought with him to campus from New York. I was tempted, but declined.

I assumed the end of the semester would mean a break from stalking, but when I arrived for my summer internship at a Missouri paper, a letter was there, waiting for me.

Why didn't I call the police? It never occurred to me. The only stalking cases I'd even heard of involved celebrities. How was I going to convince the police that this person was a threat? What were the chances they'd believe I hadn't done anything to encourage him? Later, when I was rattled enough and ready to call, some administrators at the journalism school urged me not to. They felt my stalker was fragile and didn't want me to push him over the edge. The basic message was this: If I turned him in, he'd commit suicide, and it would be my fault. So no pressure.

So another year passed: letters, phone calls and ... stalking. One morning I woke up early and pulled back the curtains of my bedroom window. The undeveloped land across the street was covered with weeds and high grass. There, sitting in the wet morning grass, staring back at me, was my stalker. He'd been there all night.

Everyone has a tipping point, and mine came with a strange phone call one night. It wasn't my stalker; it was a therapist. He wanted me to come in for a joint session with my boyfriend. My boyfriend had told him that I was to blame for many problems in our relationship, and while he knew my boyfriend had issues, it would really help my boyfriend's treatment if all three of us could talk together.

**By TRACEE HAMILTON**
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

*Hamilton is a sports columnist for* The Washington Post.

I still remember standing there, in the dark, phone in my hand, shaking, as this guy went on and on about my boyfriend and my poor treatment of him. You see, my boyfriend wasn't in therapy. The boyfriend he was describing was my stalker. Slowly it came to me: I was being chastised by a mental health professional for being mean to the man who was torturing me. And finally, I snapped.

When I was done unloading, and the therapist was done apologizing, I gave him a message: One more letter, one more phone call, one more sighting of my stalker anywhere near me, and I was going to the police. Period. End of story. Whatever he subsequently said to my stalker, it worked, because it stopped. All of it.

The fear didn't stop. Not for a long time. For years, reaching into a mailbox was an ordeal. Even now, when I see an envelope addressed in unfamiliar handwriting, I get that old familiar frisson of fear. I have resisted all suggestions to create a Facebook page because of my stalker. I hesitated a long time before writing this, and more time before giving it to my editor, because I don't want this column to be seen as encouragement to my stalker.

Some people may think that the worst thing that happened to Andrews is that video clip on the Internet. As awful as that violation of privacy was, remember that Andrews also has to live with the knowledge that this man stalked her all over the country, that at times only a hotel door separated her from a clearly obsessed and disturbed man. As hard as it is to remove a video from the Internet, that's how hard it is to remove that kind of fear from your mind. And that's why I'm tired of the endless debate about whether Andrews somehow "asked for it." Just stop. Believe me, no one asks for this.

## Letters to the Editor

# Separating ideas from actions

It was with interest that I read the Oct. 5 opinion piece by Anthony Pellegrino, "The CNMI as the Sleeping Food Basket of the Pacific." I did some research after reading his article, and found a recurring theme related to this concept that Mr. Pellegrino is addressing.

Unfortunately, the recurring theme that I discovered is a dividing line that separates ideas from actions. One only has to look at the numerous feasibility studies, research studies, assessments, grants, etc., that have taken place over the years and you would conclude that the real money is made from studies, not from the business idea itself. Due to the limitations of this letter, I've only included a few examples to reference (www.sare.org/highlights/states, www.reeis.usda.gov/web/crisprojectpages, http://www.ctsa.org) but would be happy to provide many more if requested to make my point. My phone number is included at the end of this letter.

For the ctsa. org site, use the search function and enter in the words "CNMI."

I can appreciate the frustration some individuals must be experiencing when they see opportunities that go unnoticed or undeveloped. Unfortunately, what appears to be the real problem is the absence of an entity that understands how to combine the necessary resources, legal or environmental requirements, makes the proper business or investor contacts, and then facilitates negotiations to complete a project that benefits all concerned parties. Call me overly optimistic, but I do believe that the CNMI could position itself for a better future if that's what it really wants. The key is to start by researching, observing, and emulating what has already worked in similar environments. The current changes taking place present true opportunities for investors and businesses that understand the value of an intelligent intermediary acting on their behalf.

**Jim Vandenburg**
*Illinois (312-895-6041)*

# Two full years to prepare

The decision to give all legal guest workers a blanket two-year permit to stay and work here in the CNMI is a gesture of goodwill to the guest workers and a wise one. Most importantly it provides stability at least for the short term.

Many of these guest workers will contribute to the labor need both in Guam as well as here in the CNMI when the military build-up starts taking shape, and that is just around the corner. The business community should be happy for this decision as it will give them ample time to plan ahead.

In the meantime, the Public School Ssytem and Northern Marianas College should focus on training the young to close the gap on future labor requirement should the federal authorities inhumanely deport our long staying guest workers and their U.S. citizen children. Our young should be trained on the job requirements of the CNMI private sector on top of the standard curriculum. No more excuse, two full years to prepare.

**Frank M. Atalig**
*Sinapalo, Rota*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

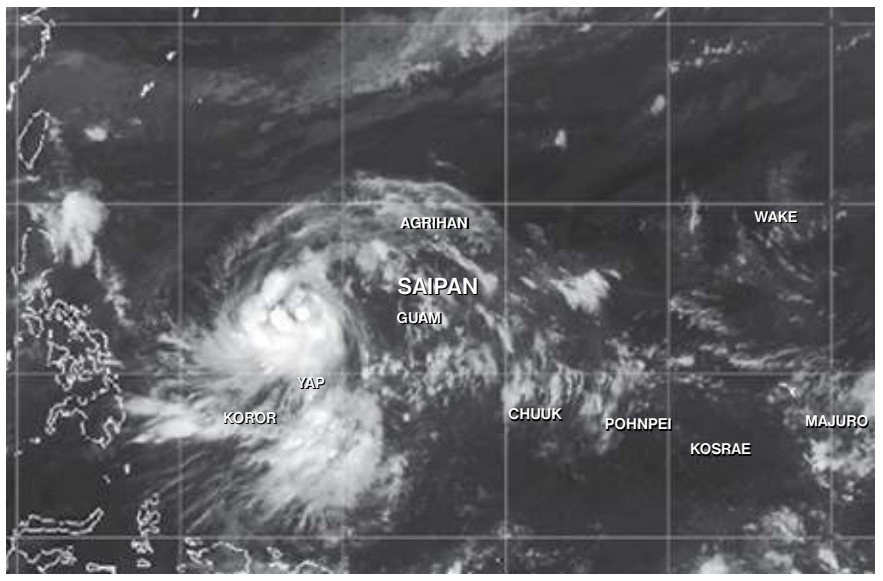
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | ▲83 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Thundershowers | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲87 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲88 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲82 | ▼75 |
| Kosrae | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Rain | ▲85 | ▼76 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲62 | ▼55 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲72 | ▼46 |
| Hong Kong | Partly Sunny | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲83 | ▼75 |
| London | Partly Sunny | ▲57 | ▼41 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲90 | ▼60 |
| Manila | Rain | ▲85 | ▼76 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | ▲60 | ▼41 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼67 |
| New York | Rain | ▲48 | ▼41 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲72 | ▼54 |
| Paris | Partly Sunny | ▲54 | ▼43 |
| Pusan | Mostly Sunny | ▲71 | ▼50 |
| Rome | Cloudy | ▲61 | ▼40 |
| Salem | Rain | ▲64 | ▼46 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲67 | ▼57 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲64 | ▼48 |
| Tokyo | Partly Sunny | ▲70 | ▼59 |
| Washington, DC | Rain | ▲48 | ▼40 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm 22w is centered north-northeast of Yap near 13N140E and moving westward at 20 mph. Heavy rain and scattered thunderstorms are occurring near the center between 11N and 16N from 136E to 141E. For more information on 22W, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. Low-level convergence north of 22W is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Northern Marianas between 16N and 20N from 137E to 147E. Converging west winds farther south of 22W are creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Yap but southeast of Koror between 2N and 10N from 135E to 145E. Trade-wind convergence southeast of the storm is causing scattered showers north of Chuuk between 9N and 13N from 150E to 155E. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from northwest of Enewetak Atoll at 15N158E to near Kwajalein at 8N166E then turns eastward to beyond 180 at 8N. Scattered showers are found along and near the trough axis over the Marshall Islands within 135 miles of a line from 12N161E to 4N175E.

## Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12:42 AM Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 6:48 AM Today | High Tide: | 1.9 Feet |
| 12:50 PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.6 Feet |
| 6:36 PM Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:09 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Sunday | 6:09 AM | 5:55 PM |
| Monday | 6:09 AM | 5:54 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:10 AM | 5:54 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:10 AM | 5:53 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 3:58 AM | 4:17 PM |
| Sunday | 4:53 AM | 4:59 PM |
| Monday | 6:46 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Tuesday | 7:43 AM | 7:15 PM |
| Wednesday | 8:39 AM | 8:05 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

**POLICY**

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:50am | 12:25pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:50pm | 1:20pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:20am | 5:10am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:50am | 1:20pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:30pm | 1:20pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:30pm | 4:20pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW99 | 6:05am | 8:40am | 1, 2, 5, 6 |
| NW78 | 9:00am | 2:05pm | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| NW75 | 3:50pm | 6:25pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | 1, 3, 4, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:20am | 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX |
| OZ606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 4, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:20am | 11:25am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/703 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C09603/933 | 3:30pm | 8:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:45am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:20am | 11:45am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:50am | 11:45am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:15am | 3:50am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:10am | 2:40am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:10am | 3:50am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09316 | 2:20am | 3:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:20am | 11:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| NW76 | 10:00am | 2:35pm | Daily |
| NW77 | 6:35pm | 1:40am+1 | 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| NW100 | 8:40pm | 1:20am+1 | 1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1 |

**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ120 | 9:55pm | 2:20am+1 | 2, 3, 5, 7 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 4, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/603 | 12:45pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 12:45pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:00pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:50pm | 2:30pm+1 | 3, 6 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:30pm | 4, 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## Schedule of Religious Services

### CATHOLIC

**Mt. Carmel Cathedral**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

**Korean Center**
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

**Kristo Rai Parish**
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

**Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish**
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

**Saint Jude Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

**San Antonio Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

**San Francisco de Borja-Rota**
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

**San Isidro-Rota**
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

**San Jose (Oleai) Parish**
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

**San Roque Parish**
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

**San Vicente Parish**
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

**Santa Remedios**
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

**Santa Soledad**
Sunday: 7:30am

### PROTESTANT

**Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan**
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

**Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

**Chinese Christian Church of Saipan**
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

**Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan**
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

**Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan**
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

**Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan**
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

**Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan**
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

**Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville**
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

**Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)**
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

**Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan**
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

**Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan**
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

**Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan**
Sunday Worship Service: 10am– 12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

**Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan**
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

**Missions Connection Ministry**
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

**Northern Marianas Christian Church**
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

**Saipan Bible Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

**Saipan Christian Church**
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

**Saipan Church of Christ**
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

**Saipan Community Church**
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan**
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

**First Baptist Church**
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | | |
| | 9am | Sunday school |
| | 10am | Regular worship |
| | 6pm | worship |
| Wednesday | | |
| | 7pm | worship |

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

**Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center**
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

**Upper Room International Ministries**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 5:30am-6:30am | |
| Morning prayer | | |
| | 7am-9am | English service |
| | 7am-9am | Sunday school |
| | 10am-12noon | English service, Koblerville |
| Wednesday | 7pm-9pm | Prayer meeting |
| Saturday | 7pm-9pm | Tagalog service |

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

**Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church**
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Oct. 17, 2000

**Cabrera trial begins today**
The fate of former Finance Secretary Antonio R. Cabrera rests on seven women and five men who were selected yesterday during a day-long court proceeding to serve as jury in his trial on corruption charges. About 48 people were summoned by the U.S. District Court for the jury selection, eventually coming up with the 12 jurors and two alternates to the satisfaction of the defense and the prosecution. One of those summoned was a namesake, Antonio Cabrera, who admitted being a second cousin to the defendant. The prosecution rejected him as a juror—a decision upheld by Judge Alex R. Munson since court rules prohibit jurors with relations to either party of up to third degree.

**Garment manufacturers see tough times ahead**
Saipan's largest industry told Commonwealth government leaders this week that they expect rough times ahead as decreases in orders from garment buyers, rising costs of doing business, and labor difficulties are making business extremely tough for Saipan's garment factories. These concerns were raised in a round table forum between members of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association (SGMA), Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Senate President Paul A. Manglona, and Speaker of the House Benigno R. Fitial. At times emotions ran high in the meeting attended by nearly 60 garment company owners and resident managers. SGMA's new Board Chair Gonzalo Santos opened the meeting by saying, "We all know we are under scrutiny from Washington D.C. and we also have to continue working toward a good image in the local community."

### Oct. 17, 2001

**Anthrax scare reaches NMI**
Panic gripped post office employees in Capitol Hill yesterday after a lady attendant spotted a suspicious-looking package, prompting her to call the Emergency Management Office. A white, powdery substance leaked from the package when the employee pulled out a box at the USPS in Capitol Hill, said Emergency Management Office Director Gregorio Deleon Guerrero. "Out of concern, she called our office to see if we can ascertain what was it because of the the deep anthrax scare in the United States, and she was concerned of her health," Guerrero told reporters. Teams from the EMO, the Department of Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Department of Public Health responded to the call.

**DPH prepared vs. anthrax spread**
The local health department is prepared to treat anthrax cases just like any state in the US with its ready supply of antibiotics called ciproflaxin. The Department of Public Health has assured it is trained to respond to such cases, especially after undergoing a preparedness drill that dealt with measures against anthrax last June. "Just as any county or state, we are prepared. We have antibiotics typically-used to treat the disease. Ciproflaxin is a good medicine that treats both the skin and lung forms of the disease," said DPH Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom yesterday.

### Oct. 17, 2002

**Better 911 access mulled**
Emergency response in the Northern Marianas is seen to approach exact science through a sophisticated telecommunications system that would allow authorities to view the exact addresses of persons dialing 911 for emergency assistance. The system, proposed under a House bill penned by Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, would only work, however, once the CNMI's street-naming project comes to completion. House Bill 13-201, introduced by Guerrero during the last regular session, proposes to "authorize the Department of Finance to establish a surcharge fee on local exchange telephone and wireless services to fund the CNMI-wide 911 Emergency System."

**NMI's location plays vital role for US**
The Northern Marianas' location is strategic to the United States such that it can be tapped to assist U.S. forces in any military strike against Iraq in case a shooting war begins. However, the CNMI is not yet being asked to assist the U.S. in any military action, the Commonwealth Ports Authority said yesterday. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said at present that there is no imminent danger to the Commonwealth but ports officials are mindful of potential threats due to the islands' close proximity to Asia and the Middle East.

# Business

## Jobless claims, muted inflation boost recovery

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—New jobless claims dropped to the lowest level since January and the prices of many household goods stayed low last month, positive signs of stability for the fledgling economic recovery.

The decline in jobless claims shows companies are cutting fewer workers, though the drop isn't yet steep enough to signal new hiring, economists said. And the low level of inflation is holding down prices as Americans slowly regain their appetite to shop despite rising unemployment and tight credit conditions.

Thursday's reports "all point to an economy that is starting to grow again," said Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist at the Economic Outlook Group.

Low inflation is consistent with the early stages of an economic recovery, Baumohl said. Even as business activity picks up, unemployment is still high and factories have enough spare capacity to increase output without sending prices higher.

The Labor Department said first-time claims for jobless benefits dropped to a seasonally-adjusted 514,000 from an upwardly revised 524,000 the previous week. The fifth decline in six weeks defied economists' forecasts of a slight gain.

The four-week average, which smooths fluctuations, fell for the sixth straight time to 531,500. That's the lowest since January and about 125,000 below the April peak.

Economists closely watch initial claims, which are considered a measure of layoffs and the willingness of companies to add jobs.

The recovery is widely expected to be weak, particularly when it comes to employment. Most economists think weekly jobless claims need to fall to 425,000 or below before the nation will start adding jobs.

The tally of people continuing to claim benefits dropped by 75,000 to 5.99 million, its first time below 6 million since the week of March 28. Continuing claims data lags initial claims by a week.

In a separate report, the Labor Department said consumer prices rose 0.2 percent last month, matching analysts' expectations. Prices excluding the volatile energy and food categories also rose 0.2 percent.

Over the past 12 months, consumer prices fell 1.3 percent, as the recession kept a lid on inflation. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.5 percent.

## In a bad economy, banks trade their way to profits

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The big banks are showing they can still make money, even as Main Street struggles—though not from lending, refinancing homes or other bread-and-butter business.

Instead, they're doing what Wall Street does best—betting big on stocks, bonds, commodities and other assets.

Citigroup, the shakiest of the major banks during the financial crisis, reported Thursday it eked out a quarterly profit from trading, despite suffering more losses on consumer loans. Trading also drove big profits at Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase.

That some banks are making money now is a sign of remarkable recovery from the crisis a year ago. But the lopsided business model raises questions about what happens if trading profits fall off and banks are left to rely on more traditional operations.

After all, the economy is still struggling to recover, unemployment is approaching 10 percent and Americans are saving money and trying to pay down debt, not taking on more.

"The good news is that banks are in better shape. The bad news is that they're not making loans to consumers and businesses," said market analyst Edward Yardeni. "That could come back to bite them because these trading gains will only last so long."

Mindful of the problems banks still face, investors reacted cautiously a day after the Dow Jones industrials powered back above 10,000 for the first time in a year. Stocks zigzagged for most of Thursday before ending modestly higher.

For now, trading is pretty much the only way banks can make money. And it's more lucrative because there are fewer competitors, interest rates are near zero and government subsidies have allowed banks to borrow cheaply and invest in assets that offer the highest returns.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has benefited more than most. Famed for its trading prowess, the New York investment bank said Thursday that third-quarter earnings swelled to $3.03 billion, more than triple what it made a year ago.

As in past quarters, Goldman leaned heavily on its trading operation—buying and selling stocks, bonds, foreign currencies and commodities like oil and gold—to make money.

"They've been on the mark on the trading side," said Stephen Hagenbuckle, a principle at private equity fund Terra-Cap Partners.

# Nation

# Boy said to have floated off in balloon found safe

**FORT COLLINS, Colo.** (AP)—A 6-year-old boy was found hiding in a cardboard box in his family's garage attic Thursday after being feared aboard a homemade helium balloon that hurtled 50 miles through the sky on live television. Sheriff Jim Alderden turned to reporters during a news conference and gave a thumbs up and said, "He's at the house."

"Apparently he's been there the whole time," Alderden said.

Investigators had searched the house twice, and interviewed one of Falcon Heene's older brothers several times, he said. He said the brother reported that the boy floated off in the balloon was "very adamant," and the parents "were besides themselves with worry."

The discovery marked a bizarre end to a saga that started when the giant silvery balloon floated away from the family's yard Thursday morning, sparking a frantic rescue operation that involved military helicopters and briefly shut down Denver International Airport.

The flying saucer-like craft tipped precariously at times before gliding to the ground in a field, the culmination of a two-hour, 50-mile journey through two counties.

With the child nowhere in sight, investigators searched the balloon's path. Several people reported seeing something fall from the craft while it was in the air, and yellow crime-scene tape was placed around the home.

But in the end, the boy apparently never left the home. It's not immediately clear what happened when the balloon took off to prompt the sibling to say he saw his brother board.

Neighbor Bob Licko, 65, said he was leaving home when he heard commotion in the backyard of the family. He said he saw two boys on the roof with a camera, commenting about their brother.

"One of the boys yelled to me that his brother was way up in the air," Licko said.

Licko said the boy's mother seemed distraught and that the boy's father was running around the house. The Poudre School District in Fort Collins, where the boys attend, did not have classes for elementary schools Thursday because of a teacher work day.

The boys parents, Richard and Mayuri, are storm chasers who appeared twice in the ABC reality show "Wife Swap," most recently in March.

"When the Heene family aren't chasing storms, they devote their time to scientific experiments that include looking for extraterrestrials and building a research-gathering flying saucer to send into the eye of the storm," according to the show.

In a 2007 interview with The Denver Post, Richard Heene described becoming a storm chaser after a tornado ripped off a roof where he was working as a contractor and said he once flew a plane around Hurricane Wilma's perimeter in 2005.

AP

Six-year-old Falcon Heene sits cross-legged on the roof of his family's van outside his home in Fort Collins, Colo., after the little boy was found hiding in a box in a space above the garage on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009.

# Baucus: All Senate Dems will support health bill

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—When it comes time to vote, every Democrat in the Senate—and perhaps more than one Republican—will support legislation overhauling the nation's health care system, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee predicted Thursday.

That assertion by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., was a notable show of confidence coming in the midst of negotiations with Majority Leader Harry Reid and White House officials to finalize legislation that can satisfy liberal Democrats without alienating moderates - and get the 60 votes needed to advance in the 100-seat Senate.

Baucus told reporters that lawmakers have a moral obligation to repair the health care system to rein in costs and extend coverage to millions of the uninsured.

"And that is why we are going to pass health care reform legislation this year, and it is why every Democrat will vote for it, and it is why there will be at least one Republican and maybe a couple more who also will vote for it," Baucus said.

"Every Democrat will vote for national health care reform," Baucus emphasized.

Democrats control 60 Senate votes, but that includes two independents, and leaders have been uncertain of support from a number of moderates who've expressed concerns about the price tag of health care legislation and the government's role in a remade system.

Baucus' prediction followed approval by his committee earlier this week of a 10-year, $829 billion bill that makes numerous changes to the health care system along the lines sought by President Barack Obama, but taking a more centrist approach than the other four health care bills approved by House and Senate committees.

# Obama defends himself against New Orleans critics

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Insisting he's "just getting started," President Barack Obama defended his administration Thursday against complaints from some residents of the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast that federal help in recovering from the 2005 disasters hasn't improved much since he took office.

"We've got a long way to go but we've made progress," Obama told a town hall at the University of New Orleans. "We're working as hard as we can and as quickly as we can."

Obama

As a candidate, Obama criticized former President George W. Bush's response to Katrina, when the government showed up late and unprepared and the Federal Emergency Management Agency became the object of widespread scorn.

The storm killed some 1,600 people in Louisiana and Mississippi—and damage has been estimated at roughly $40 billion. The damage is still starkly visible in New Orleans—in blighted neighborhoods of creaky houses, boarded-up businesses, structure after structure awaiting demolition and critical recovery work not yet started.

Obama wanted to use his first visit as president to the Gulf Coast to listen to residents' concerns about the recovery effort. And although most questions were on unrelated subjects, one man gave him an earful.

"I expected as much from the Bush administration, but why are we still being nickeled and dimed in our recovery?" asked Gabriel Bordenave, 29, of New Orleans.

"I wish I could write a blank check," Obama replied, promoting Bordenave to shout back, "Why not?"

# No Social Security COLA could prod $250 payments

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Social Security recipients won't get a cost-of-living increase next year for the first time in more than a third of a century, and that could boost President Barack Obama's plan to send seniors another round of $250 payments before the congressional elections.

Democratic leaders in Congress have signed onto the plan, greatly improving its chances, even as some budget hawks say the payments are unwarranted and could add to the federal budget deficit. Republican leaders said they, too, favor the payments but don't want to increase the deficit to pay for them.

More than 50 million Social Security recipients will see no increase in their monthly payments next year, the government said Thursday, the first year without an increase since automatic adjustments were adopted in 1975.

Blame it on falling consumer prices. By law, cost-of-living adjustments are pegged to inflation, which is negative this year because of lower energy costs. Social Security payments do not go down, even when prices drop.

Social Security recipients at a senior center in Pembroke Pines, Fla., a suburb of Fort Lauderdale, took it in stride that come January they won't see an increase in their benefits.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### County to sick workers: Stay home or risk firing

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Employees of an Arizona county who have flu symptoms or a temperature of at least 100.4 degrees must stay home from work or risk being disciplined or fired under a new policy, officials said Thursday. The requirement is aimed at lessening the spread of swine or seasonal flu illnesses among the county's nearly 7,000 employees and among people who visit government buildings, Pima County Board of Supervisors chairman Richard Elias said. Employees with flu symptoms would be required to stay home until at least 24 hours after the fever ends. A sick employee who ignores a manager's order to go home faces disciplinary action or firing.

### Lesbian student in Miss. fights for tuxedo photo

**JACKSON, Miss.** (AP)—Everyone at Wesson Attendance Center knows 17-year-old Ceara Sturgis is gay because she's never tried to hide it. But when Sturgis—an honor student, trumpet player and goalie on the school's soccer team—wanted her senior photograph in a tuxedo used in the 2009-10 yearbook, school officials balked. Traditionally, female students dress in drapes and males wear tuxedos. Now, the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi has gotten involved, issuing a demand letter to Principal Ronald Greer to publish the picture of Sturgis in the tuxedo. The ACLU says it's giving the school until Oct. 23 to respond before pursuing court action, said Kristy L. Bennett, the ACLU's legal director.

### Top drug cartel figure pleads guilty in San Diego

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—A suspected top figure in Mexico's Arellano Felix drug cartel pleaded guilty to a drug charge Thursday, nearly ending a nine-year legal battle that saw the cartel's power fade at the hands of authories and rivals. Jesus "Chuy" Labra pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute at least 100 kilograms of marijuana and at least 100 grams of cocaine. Defense attorney Eugene Iredale said money laundering and racketeering charges against Labra will be dropped. U.S. District Judge Larry Alan Burns is set to sentence Labra to between five and 40 years in prison on Jan. 4. Iredale said defense attorneys plan to ask for a five-year sentence.

### Sheriff probes sweat lodge deaths as homicides

**PRESCOTT, Ariz.** (AP)—The deaths of two people during a sweat lodge ceremony led by self-help expert James Arthur Ray are being investigated as homicides, authorities said Thursday. Yavapai County Sheriff Steve Waugh said the deaths last week of Kirby Brown, 38, of Westtown N.Y. and James Shore, 40, of Milwaukee were not accidental. "A combination of circumstances led to the deaths," Waugh said. "Whether or not we can prove a criminal case, that has yet to be determined." Waugh said investigators are looking at the way the sweat lodge was built, the fact that people had fallen ill at previous sweat ceremonies led by Ray, and questionable medical care on site. Authorities have said a nurse hired by Ray was directing rescue efforts including CPR when emergency crews arrived.

# World

# Little-known Egyptian is key al-Qaida figure

**KABUL** (AP)—He's a heavyweight in al-Qaida but little known outside jihadi and intelligence circles even though he runs the terrorist movement's operations in a key front—Afghanistan—and may be linked to a plot in New York.

Mustafa al-Yazid makes no secret of his contempt for the United States, once calling it "the evil empire leading crusades against the Muslims."

"We have reached the point where we see no difference between the state and the American people," al-Yazid told Pakistan's Geo TV in a June 2008 interview. "The United States is a non-Muslim state bent on the destruction of Muslims."

Al-Yazid may also have links to Afghan immigrant Najibullah Zazi, whom U.S. authorities have arrested in an alleged plot to use homemade backpack bombs, perhaps on New York City's mass transit system.

Two U.S. intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the case remains under investigation, told The Associated Press that the bespectacled, Egyptian-born al-Yazid used a middleman to contact Zazi, indicating that the al-Qaida leadership took a keen interest in what U.S. officials call one of the most serious terrorism threats crafted on U.S. soil since the 9/11 attacks.

AP

This Tuesday, July 22, 2008 image taken from Pakistan's Geo TV shows Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, an Egyptian who heads al-Qaida Afghanistan operations, in the eastern Afghan province of Khost. al-Yazid made contact with Najibullah Zazi, a Colorado airport shuttle driver accused last month of plotting to attack New York City, U.S. intelligence officials said Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009.

## Attacks in Pakistan put focus on Punjab militants

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—A Pakistani official played down suggestions that the Taliban had become entrenched in the nuclear-armed country's heartland Friday, a day after a series of deadly attacks indicated the Islamist extremists have made inroads far from their sanctuaries along the Afghan border.

A wave of violence in the past two weeks has killed more than 150 people in Pakistan and fueled concerns that the Taliban had linked up with other militant groups around the country, forming an insurgent alliance that would vastly increase the threats to the U.S.-allied country.

On Thursday, gunmen attacked three law enforcement compounds in the country's second-largest city of Lahore—the capital of the Punjab—killing 19 people. The nine attackers were also killed. The new violence appeared aimed at preventing the army from launching an offensive in the militant stronghold of South Waziristan along the Afghan border.

Two officials said initial investigations into the Lahore attacks showed Taliban from the Afghan border region and militants from Punjab were responsible.

"This was a well-coordinated Taliban operation supported by local groups," Umer Virk, head of the Lahore anti-terrorist police, told The Associated Press.

Observers say Punjab's militant problem is most pervasive in its south. But speaking to reporters in Lahore on Friday, provincial Law Minister Rana Sanaullah played down any such threat.

"The Taliban don't have any authority in southern Punjab, and there is no need for any operation against them," he said.

Sanaullah, who said authorities had arrested some people in connection with the assaults, also defended the performance of security agencies during the standoffs, and said previous intelligence about the possible attacks was too vague to act upon.

# UK spy chief: UK must work with other countries

**LONDON** (AP)—The head of Britain's domestic spy agency said Friday that Britain's security services try to make sure they do not collude in the torture or mistreatment of detainees by foreign governments, but acknowledged it was not possible to guarantee that it never happened.

Jonathan Evans, director-general of domestic security agency MI5, said that following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, Britain had to work with other countries that had more experience dealing with al-Qaida related terrorism, even if those countries operated on different standards.

"Our intelligence resources were not adequate to the situation we faced and the root of the terrorist problem was in parts of the world where the standards and practices of the local security apparatus were very far removed from our own," he said.

Evans made his comments at a speech at his former college, Bristol University, in the west of England Thursday evening. The speech was made public Friday.

"Given the pressing need to understand and uncover al-Qaida's plans, were we to deal, however circumspectly, with those security services who had experience of working against al-Qaida on their own territory, or were we to refuse to deal with them, accepting that in so doing we would be cutting off a potentially vital source of information that would prevent attacks in the West?" he said in the speech.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### US man accused of grabbing own kids freed in Japan

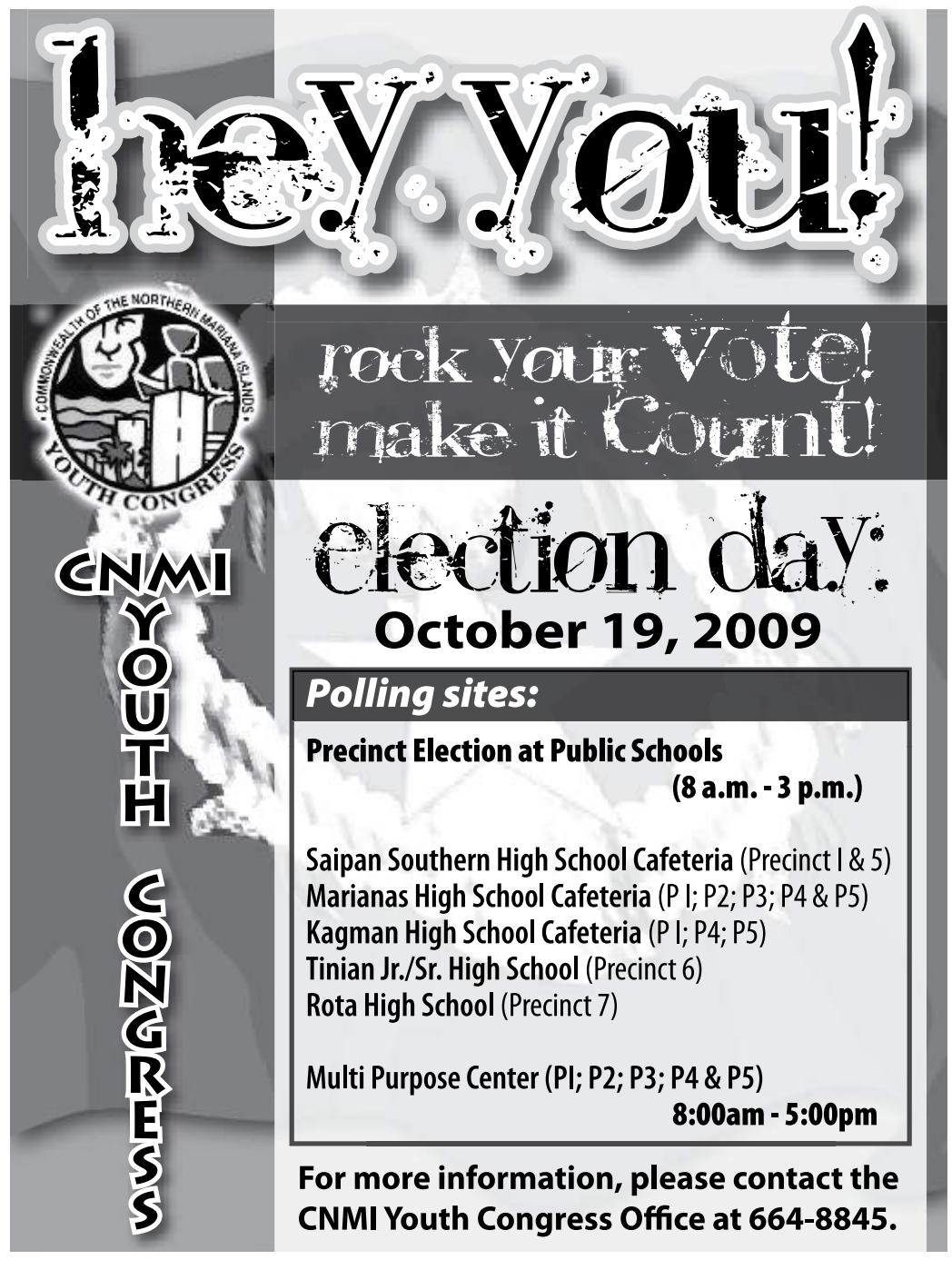
**TOKYO** (AP)—Japanese police released an American man held for 18 days on Thursday, pending an investigation into accusations he snatched his children from his ex-wife. The case is among a growing number of custody disputes in Japan that involve one foreign parent. Japanese law allows only one parent to be a custodian—almost always the mother—leaving many divorced fathers without access to their children until they are grown. While prosecutors have not pressed charges against Christopher Savoie, they haven't yet dropped the case either, and an investigation is continuing, said police official Kiyonori Tanaka in the southern Japanese city of Yanagawa. They decided to release him on grounds that he was not a flight risk, he said.

### Afghan runner-up has faith in election fraud panel

**KABUL** (AP)—President Hamid Karzai's top challenger in Afghanistan's intensely contested presidential election said Thursday he had faith that a U.N.-backed commission working to root out fraudulent votes would announce a fair decision within days. Former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah stopped short of saying he would accept its results, however, and expressed concern over the commission's methodology. But "we have to have faith in something," he said. The U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission, which is tasked with determining how many fraudulent votes to toss out, could release its finding as early as Saturday. The nation's main electoral body would then announce whether Abdullah will face Karzai in a runoff, which would have to be held within two weeks.

### Protests evoke apartheid era in South Africa

**STANDERTON, South Africa** (AP)—Protesters barricaded a major highway with rocks and burning tires Thursday, clashing with police who fired on them with rubber bullets. Youths retaliated with slingshots and threw rocks. The protest evoked images from decades earlier, when township residents took to the streets to fight apartheid. Now the issue is the government's failure to improve the lives of poor South African's since democracy replaced legal racial separation. More than 150 people have been arrested this week in protests that have spread from Standerton, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) southeast of Johannesburg, to at least four other towns in eastern South Africa. On Thursday, a police vehicle was set alight by protesters near a stadium that will be used for next year's World Cup in the provincial capital of Nelspruit, police spokeswoman Sibongile Nkosi said. And miles away in Diepsloot, a poor settlement north of Johannesburg, 19 people were injured when police fired rubber bullets at protesters.


hey you!
rock your vote!
make it Count!
election day
October 19, 2009
Polling sites:
Precinct Election at Public Schools
(8 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria (Precinct I & 5)
Marianas High School Cafeteria (P I; P2; P3; P4 & P5)
Kagman High School Cafeteria (P I; P4; P5)
Tinian Jr./Sr. High School (Precinct 6)
Rota High School (Precinct 7)
Multi Purpose Center (PI; P2; P3; P4 & P5)
8:00am - 5:00pm
For more information, please contact the CNMI Youth Congress Office at 664-8845.
CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
YOUTH CONGRESS

# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 17, 2009


# Looming storm prompts RP evacuation call

TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Officials told residents still reeling from mudslides that recently buried hundreds in the northern Philippine mountains to be ready to abandon their homes again if a storm approaching Friday becomes the third typhoon in a month to hit the country.

The warning came after back-to-back storms since Sept. 26 caused the worst flooding in 40 years in and around the capital Manila and unleashed landslides in the Cordillera mountains in the north of the country, killing 773 people and affecting more than 7 million.

Tropical Storm Lupit may intensify into a super typhoon by the time it makes landfall next week with winds up to 143 miles (230 kilometers) per hour, forecasters said. It was expected to enter Philippine waters late Friday.

"We are still retrieving our dead and here comes (Lupit)," Gov. Nestor Fongwan of Benguet province told a radio interview. "I hope it does not hit us."

At least 288 people were killed in last week's landslides in Benguet province.

The new storm may spare the saturated northern Philippines and veer toward Taiwan early next week, or may track the same devastating path as Typhoon Parma, which made landfall Oct. 3 then lingered for a week while battering the main northern island of Luzon, said chief weather forecaster Nathaniel Cruz.

Disaster-relief officials in the Cordillera region advised thousands of residents to be prepared to move to safer ground to avoid the threat of mudslides that last week buried dozens of mountainside houses with entire families, blocked roads and isolated towns for days.

"We are informing them that there's an incoming typhoon and that we must be aware of the necessity for pre-emptive evacuation once we know that we will be hit," said Olive Luces, head of the Office of Civil Defense in Baguio city, 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of Manila.

With the jagged terrain in the region of more than 1.2 million people, Luces said that large swathes of land may be considered danger zones. Residents living in low-lying areas, near cliffs and mountain slopes will be priority targets for evacuation, she said.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center, operated by the U.S. Navy in Hawaii, projected the storm may make landfall Wednesday in northeastern Isabela or Cagayan provinces and exit the Philippines through northwestern Illocos provinces the same day.

AP

A couple of Philippine National Police rescuers entertain colleagues during their retrieval operation Tuesday Oct. 13, 2009, four days after a landslide buried homes at La Trinidad, Benguet province near the mountain resort city of Baguio in northern Philippines.

# Irish priest's Filipino kidnappers make contact

OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A representative of gunmen holding an ailing Irish priest hostage in the southern Philippines made contact Thursday with his Roman Catholic mission, a military commander said.

Following the telephone call, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said authorities believed that the 79-year-old Rev. Michael Sinnott was being held in the coastal town of Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte province, where Muslim separatists are active.

Troops surrounded the area where Sinnott was held and identified four of the six kidnappers, he said.

Dolorfino, who is the commander for the area, refused to elaborate on the conversation between the representative and Sinnott's Missionary Society of St. Columban.

Dolorfino has urged the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, who have been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Muslims in the predominantly Catholic nation's south, to cooperate in freeing Sinnott.

Rebel leader Mohagher Iqbal promised to help Wednesday amid concern for Sinnott's health. The priest has recently undergone heart bypass surgery and did not have his medicines on him when gunmen dragged him away from the garden of his house.

"Our immediate concern now is the medication of Father Sinnott," Dolorfino told The Associated Press.

Authorities were to distribute flyers Friday in the province and in Pagadian city, across the bay from where Sinnott was kidnapped on Sunday, with telephone numbers the kidnappers can call to arrange for medicine to be sent to Sinnott, Dolorfino said.

He said the kidnappers apparently took Sinnott to an area under the control of a local Moro rebel commander.

"The least he can do is to drive away the kidnappers if he is not involved, and the most he can do is to help us capture them," Dolorfino said of the rebel commander.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said the group was trying to verify reports that Sinnott was in an area of its control. He insisted, however, that the rebels were not holding the priest.

The rebels and the government just a few months ago fought major clashes that killed hundreds and displaced more than half a million people. A truce eased the fighting, and the government has used the cease-fire committee to ask the rebels for help in ending the latest hostage crisis.

Foreign priests in the volatile southern Philippines have been targeted in the past. In 2001, kidnappers fatally shot fellow Irish Columban Rev. Rufus Halley when he tried to escape. In June 2007, kidnappers with links to Moro rebels held an Italian priest for 33 days.

**? LABOR FRONT**

# The two-year 'umbrella permit'

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

**Q: Why is the CNMI government issuing a two-year "umbrella permit" to alien workers?**

**A:** According to the CNMI government, the purpose of the two-year umbrella permit is to help stabilize the workforce, protect employers and employees, and prevent undue damage to the economy. The local government believes that the new program will benefit both the federal agencies and the Commonwealth.

Under the new process, the federal agencies will have more time to get their permitting process into place; and the Commonwealth will have a stable employment situation. The umbrella permit is a protection of status. It does not change the Labor Department system, according to the government's outline of the "umbrella permit" process.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: Does an alien worker need to file an application to the Department of Labor in order to get the two-year "umbrella permit"?**

**A:** No. According to the CNMI government, no application will be required for this permit because Labor already has all the necessary information about each of the persons who would be covered by this permit. The umbrella permits will be issued by Labor administrative action. Labor will print the permits automatically from the data in its automation system.

The government will not be charging fees for the umbrella permits because this is simply a Labor's administrative action to allow workers currently in the Labor system to have status to stay in the Commonwealth.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: Are alien workers currently holding extensions of time to transfer to new employers eligible to get the two-year "umbrella permit"?**

**Yes.** The government says that everyone in the Labor's administrative system will receive an "umbrella permit." This includes current 240K (formerly 706K) permit holders, persons whose applications are currently in process including those in the deficiency and denial categories. Also eligible are those whose transfers are currently in process and persons who currently have extensions of time to transfer. Even workers who have pending cases and persons who have pending appeals will get the umbrella permit.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: Where and when can alien workers get their two-year "umbrella permit"?**

**A:** The government will publish a schedule under which workers can come to Labor or some other convenient location to sign the umbrella permit and pick up a copy. Labor expects to print the permits by Oct. 20, 2009 and start distribution on Oct. 22, 2009. Labor wants to finish most of the distribution by Oct. 30, 2009.

The government will announce next week the detailed schedule. The announcement will be posted at Labor, Labor website. It will also be printed in local newspapers.

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# Arroyo approves extreme Metro Manila makeover

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Pushed by the great flood brought about by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" (international codename: Ketsana), President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday gave the go-signal for an urban development project that would rid Metro Manila of tens of thousands of informal settlers and modify its landscape.

At the Legislative and Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in Malacañang, Sen. Edgardo Angara broached the idea of changing the "topography and geography" of parts of Metro Manila in the wake of Ondoy's devastation, according to Press Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Remonde said Ms Arroyo was amenable to the proposal and wanted the project to take off from the 1977 Metro Manila Transport, Land Use and Development Project.

He lamented that the project received what he called a "Mona Lisa treatment" from previous administrations that allowed it to "just lay there and die."

"Why should we start from scratch when there is already something?" Remonde said at a media briefing after the Ledac meeting. "The idea here is to use the master plan as a starting point."

Ms Arroyo apparently was so interested in the study that she asked architect Felino Palafox Jr., one of its proponents, to present it at a Cabinet meeting.

"The President is very serious in considering it," Remonde said. "The President will have the political will until the end of her term."

He said Ms Arroyo had "nothing to lose" in implementing drastic changes in Metro Manila's urban setup since she was serving the last few months of her term.

### Restrict development

In the study, funded by the World Bank, the proponents recommended: "Development should be restricted by the application of controls in three major areas—in the Marikina Valley, the western shores of Laguna de Bay, and the Manila Bay coastal area to the north of Manila."

At the Ledac meeting, leaders from the Senate and the House of Representatives committed to have the Climate Change Act of 2009 ready for Ms Arroyo's signature by Oct. 30.

### Body to replace NDCC

Lawmakers also promised to pass immediately the bill institutionalizing the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management and Recovery Framework. The measure will create a new policy-making body to replace the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, gives relief goods to typhoon victims during her visit to landslide-affected township of La Trinidad, Benguet province, northern Philippines on Tuesday Oct. 13, 2009.

Remonde said Ledac members were briefed by the Department of Science and Technology on climate change and were made to realize that "we really need to accept the anomalous weather condition."

Part of the planned Metro Manila development project is the relocation of informal settlers living near rivers and creeks.

### Draft order

Remonde said Ms Arroyo received a draft of an executive order on the relocation from Mindoro Rep. Rodolfo Valencia, chair of the House committee on housing and urban development.

The press secretary said the order, which should be ready in two weeks, would cover issues such as penalizing local executives for allowing residents in danger-prone areas such as river banks.

"When you take your oath, you swear to enforce the law," he said. "Building houses (in restricted areas) is a violation of the law. If it is not enforced by local government officials, then they are violating the law."

Remonde said there would also be an executive order creating a "river basin council in areas where there are dams for better coordination among stakeholders in the area."

Review flooding measures

At a forum at the University of the Philippines on Tuesday, a hydraulics engineer said government and private developers should review existing flood protection measures in light of severe floods from Ondoy and Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

"The floods from Ondoy are very rare because of the extreme amount of rainfall, and to avoid that kind of flooding again, this must be addressed by both structural and nonstructural approaches," Guillermo Tabios said.

He called for a comprehensive, up-to-date flood forecasting and rainfall prediction so that both disaster management officials and residents would have ample time to prepare.

Long-term study on land use

In particular, Tabios said land developers and government agencies must conduct long-term studies on land use to avoid the kind of flooding that submerged Provident Villages in Marikina City.

"This is so that residential villages should not be located along the flood plain where water endangers them, like in Provident Villages. Hazard maps showing flood-prone areas must be updated and given to the local governments," he said.

Tabios and other engineers spoke at the Disaster Mitigation, Adaptation and Preparedness Strategies Forum on Flood Risk Management at the UP College of Engineering.

### Peak flood discharge

Tabios conducted a study of the flooding in Marikina during Ondoy and found that at a portion of the Marikina River in Sto. Niño, the peak flood discharge was 5,770 cubic meters per second.

He pointed out that normally, a peak flood discharge of 3,310 cubic meters per second happened every 100 years.

"As far as flood statistics are concerned, the floods in Marikina City during Ondoy were major, major flood because it exceeded the 100-year return period," said Tabios, the head of the National Hydraulics Research Center.

# San Roque Dam needs to spill excess water

## It has still 100M cubic meters to release

Philippine Daily Inquirer

**MANILA, Philippines**—The San Roque Dam still had excess water of around 100 million cubic meters to get rid of from the storm that devastated a wide swath of Pangasinan and parts of Tarlac and Nueva Ecija and left more than 700 people dead.

On Thursday, two gates were opened to dump the excess water, keeping local executives on heightened alert.

Dennis Gana, spokesperson for the National Power Corp. (Napocor), which owns the dam, said that with huge inflows from the watersheds and the Ambuklao and Binga dams in Benguet province, the two spillways would remain open until San Roque reaches its normal level of 280 meters above sea level (masl).

Alex Palada, head of the flood forecasting and warning system of Napocor, said Thursday's opening of the spillways was necessary to bring its volume to its normal level.

At 6 a.m. Thursday, the dam's water level was 286.7 masl.

Used for power generation and irrigation, the dam captures water released by Binga and Ambuklao dams in upstream Agno River in Benguet.

Mayor Ricardo Revita of the flood-devastated Pangasinan town of Rosales was not taking any chances.

Upon receiving an advisory on Wednesday night that the San Roque Dam was releasing water at 600 cubic meters per second (cms) Thursday, Revita summoned his barangay chiefs and told them to prepare.

Revita also proceeded to the bridge connecting Villasis and Rosales after San Roque Dam, the country's biggest, opened two spillways to ease pressure from back-to-back storms—"Ondoy" and "Pepeng"—with a low-pressure area threatening.

"I'm now on top of the bridge and I'm trying to assess the volume of water flowing in the river. I think the river can absorb the water being released now," Revita told the Inquirer.

Mayor Manuel Collado of nearby Alcala town said he had asked residents in three villages along the swollen Agno River to reinforce a portion of the earth dike with sand bags.

"We just wanted to be sure that this dike will not breach in case the water comes here," Collado said.

### No to big dams

In the House of Representatives, two lawmakers announced Thursday that they had filed a resolution calling for the suspension of the construction of huge dams.

"The giant dams are a clear and present danger to lives and property during the rainy season," the lawmakers said in their resolution. During prolonged dry spells, they don't help any, they said.

"Small and medium-sized water impounding dams managed and operated by farmers are deemed as safer and cheaper alternatives to giant dams," they said. "What is needed is a 21st century solution to potable water, irrigation and power needs."

The Senate committee on climate change is to resume its hearing on Friday on the devastation in Pangasinan. The panel has summoned officials of Angat, Ipo and Pantabangan dams in a bid to put in place disaster management procedures.

At the height of the heavy rains on Oct. 9, San Roque Dam opened all its six spillways for a total release of 5,072 cms. The water spilled was roughly equal to the total discharges of Binga and Ambuklao dams.

Local executives have threatened to sue managers of San Roque Dam for the devastation and deaths caused by widespread flooding, aggravated by the release of water from the swollen facility.

### Finger-pointing

Seeking to escape responsibility, officials of government agencies involved in the dam's activities have been pointing accusing fingers at each other.

Tom Valdez, vice president for corporate social responsibility of the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC), which operates the dam, said his company followed the instructions issued by Napocor at the height of the storm drenching.

"We coordinated closely with flood control experts from Napocor. Our personnel carried out the instructions of Napocor managers," he said.

Palada, Napocor's flood operations manager, said he could only authorize the release of the dam's excess water of up to 500 cubic meters per second (cms), following the flood operations rule.

"Beyond 500 cms, it's Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) that takes over," he said.

### 'Qualitative forecast'

Dr. Susan Espinueva, head of Pagasa's flood forecasting branch, said: "That's not true... They are the ones operating it. We don't have people there."

She said Pagasa's role in the interagency group is to give weather forecasts and tropical storm warnings.

"We issue forecast rainfall. We cannot forecast the volume of rainfall over the watershed. What we give them is qualitative forecast: light, moderate or heavy," he said.

Espinueva said Pagasa did not have instruments to estimate rain volume.

"We only have the satellite images. We don't have yet radar over the area," she said.

*With reports from Gabriel Gardinoza and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, Carmela Reyes and Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Leila B. Salaverria, Michael Lim Ubac and Amy R. Remo in Manila.*

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# Senate OKs P12B for rehab, warns against misuse

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Allocate the P12-billion relief fund for typhoon and flood victims expeditiously and judiciously.

"Be careful with aid funds. Avoid spending overlap," said Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Senate finance committee.

In a statement, Angara said that any hint of "misallocation of relief funds" would not be acceptable to the country and to international donors.

This was the ardent call of both administration and opposition senators following the approval of the supplemental calamity fund on Wednesday under Joint Resolution No. 34.

The resolution, which was sent to the Senate on Monday following its passage in the House of Representatives, will cover relief operations, reconstruction and rehabilitation in areas in Luzon devastated by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Tropical Storm "Pepeng." Also covered is Panay Island which was inundated by rains brought on by Typhoon "Frank" last year.

The money will come from the unprogrammed portion of the national budget and proceeds from the Malampaya share of the national government (estimated to be worth P14 billion). Malampaya is a gas field off Palawan.

Angara issued the cautionary statement amid fears—expressed by senators before the joint resolution was passed—that the P12-billion fund could be used by the Arroyo administration, ahead of the 2010 polls, to ensure the loyalty to the ruling coalition of local officials whose constituencies were affected by the recent weather disturbances.

Spending guidelines

Sen. Pia Cayetano batted for the inclusion of "clear spending guidelines" in the joint resolution to ensure the efficient and transparent use of unprogrammed funds.

"We can't just allow the unconditional release of lump-sum appropriations to any single agency (the National Disaster Coordinating Council) because this will open the floodgates to possible misuse or abuse. It would even be a bigger calamity should these funds fall into the wrong hands," she said.

Cayetano noted that the proponents of the resolution themselves had acknowledged that the usual bidding process would have to be relaxed to allow the immediate purchase of supplies and equipment for relief operations and rehabilitation of damaged areas.

Angara said the fund was not enough but it would still serve as a "vital lifeline to the 1.2 million Filipinos devastated by the typhoons."

AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009, displaced residents queue up for a medical check up after receiving food and relief supplies at a distribution center in Rosales township, Pangasinan province in northern Philippines.

# RP remittances rise 2.8 percent in August

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Filipinos working abroad sent home $1.4 billion in August, up 2.8 percent from a year earlier, as the global economy recovered and job prospects improved, the central bank said Thursday.

The latest figures brought to $11.3 billion total remittances in the first eight months, representing 3.7 percent growth from the same period last year, the bank said.

Remittances were projected to rise 4 percent this year to a record $17.1 billion, central bank Governor Amando Tetangco said.

The money sent home by 10 million overseas workers—or 10 percent of the population of 90 million—fuels domestic spending, which is the backbone of the economy. Remittances account for 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Tetangco said the Philippine government has signed employment agreements with Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, while Filipino workers can expect more jobs during the impending expansion of U.S. military bases on the Pacific island of Guam.

Aggressive marketing by banks and nonbank remittance centers has resulted in the "capture of a larger share of the global remittance market," he said.

## TAKE CHARGE

# Documents to keep—and what to throw away

*Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.*

**Question: Our home was flooded during Typhoon Ondoy. Many of our important files and documents got wet—and some may not be recoverable. I realized that I've been storing all my bills and income tax returns for several years now and wondered whether I need all these. What can I throw away? What documents should I keep and for how long?—Marissa**

**Answer:** Filing important documents is a good habit that must be emulated by everyone. Many documents just have to be held on to for reference, proof of payment, legal purposes, settlement of dispute, and the like. If you have the needed documents on hand, you will be able to save time and effort in procuring a copy from the government office or private company you have dealt with should the need for the document arise. You will also be able to retrieve the necessary proof of payment when there is a dispute in billing with a utility company.

What documents should you keep?

1. Birth certificates, marriage certificates, entry of court judgment of the annulment of marriage and the corresponding court order, adoption papers. Although you will be able to secure copies of these from the National Statistics Office and the relevant courts respectively or other government agencies, it would be good to keep a copy each of these documents for your files. Keep them for life under lock and key.

2. Government IDs. Philhealth, SSS, GSIS, Pag-Ibig cards should be kept with you. File copies of them and store them in your filing cabinet. Likewise, keep also your SSS/GSIS/Philhealth documents which list down your beneficiaries. Keep them for life.

3. Other IDs. Make sure you have photocopies of your driver's license, company ID, student ID, and credit card on file. This will make it easier for you to get a new card should you lose one.

4. Insurance policies and receipts. Keep original and photocopies of your insurance policies, whether they are for life insurance or insurance for cars, house, health, etcetera. For life insurance, keep the policy for life. For non-life insurance, keep current year's insurance papers since these insurance coverages usually have only a one-year term. As for billing statements and receipts, keep them for the duration of the term of the insurance coverage.

5. Income Tax Returns. Some say you have to keep them for three years, others for 10 years so you will have them on hand should you be audited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

6. Billing statements from utility companies and credit card companies. Keep only the current year's bills and file alongside proof of payment.

7. Bank statements. Keep them for one year at least, even for three years if you can.

8. Medical records. For annual physical exam results, keep for a year. For records pertaining to chronic diseases, keep for life. Likewise, keep filed claim forms from health maintenance organizations and health insurance companies alongside receipts.

9. School records. File your transcript, diplomas, certificates, and report cards. Keep copies on file. You may need the transcript for immigration application, job application or for application for further studies. Diplomas and certificates will come in handy when you prepare your resume.

10. Job contracts. Keep for the duration of the job.

11. Payslips. Keep for a year and check the figures against your tax documents from your employer.

12. Deeds of sale. For assets you have sold or bought (ex.: cars, houses, etc.), keep a copy of the deed of sale on file.

13. Land titles and stock certificates. Keep the original in a safety deposit box in the bank. File photocopies at home.

14. Warranty records. Keep for the duration of the warranty.

15. Loan contracts. Keep alongside proofs of payment.

What to throw awayYou can get rid of financial documents that are not useful to you anymore. Examples are cancelled checks, bank statements beyond the suggested time frame of 1 to 3 years, billing statements dating over a year, old pay slips, and bank deposit slips and ATM withdrawal slips after you have checked them against your bank statement.

Keep it organized

How best to store important documents? Here are some tips:

1. File each document type in an envelope or folder that is properly labeled.

2. Keep your envelopes or folders sorted alphabetically for easy access.

3. Use a filing cabinet, a regular cabinet, or plastic storage bins to store your files.

4. If you live in a flood-prone or low-lying area, store your files on high shelves.

5. Keep very important documents in a plastic waterproof case (ziplock will do) before storing in an envelope.

6. Periodically go over your files and get rid of documents you can already throw away.

7. Dust your cabinet and files regularly to prevent dust build up and allergies from occurring.

*INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site. INQUIRER.net receives no compensation of any kind from companies or industries or funds that are mentioned here.*

# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Black Eyed Peas singer brings aid to Philippines

TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Black Eyed Peas singer apl. de.ap has flown to his native Philippines following devastating back-to-back storms to perform a benefit concert and deliver much-needed aid.

Apl planned to stage the concert Thursday evening in Manila during a brief trip to the country.

"I just want to tell everybody that my heart goes out to you guys and I will try my best to help out," he told reporters ahead of the event.

A Los Angeles resident whose real name is Allan Pineda Lindo, apl said he was concerned when he saw television footage of the devastation and decided to make a brief visit.

The worst flooding in 40 years struck the rice-growing northern Philippines and the capital Manila late last month when a typhoon after a storm dumped heavy rains that triggered landslides and inundated towns, killing 712 people and affecting more than 7 million.

In addition to a concert with local artists, apl brought canned goods from California, donated cash and appealed for more money for victims from around the world.

The hip-hop singer, who was adopted at 14 and moved to the United States, said he remains proud of his roots.

Even before his storm outreach, apl was involved in projects in his native country.

He recently performed in a music video, created in partnership with the Philippine Department of Tourism and MTV Asia, singing a new rap song, "Take U to the Philippines," which features the country's white sand beaches, mountains and bustling cities.

"I love our culture, and you know I wanna share that all over the world," he said. "I'm not ashamed of who I am, I'm very proud to be Filipino."

He has also launched his own music label, Jeepney Music, which he hopes will provide a platform for emerging Filipino music talent.

Participants can sign up and upload original music on the MTV Emerge Web site. Anyone can vote online to choose the finalists, who will be evaluated by a panel of judges including apl. Artists with the most talent and potential will be announced in November, when apl returns to Manila for another benefit concert.

The winner will receive a one-year recording contract with Jeepney Music. "This is my way of giving back," he said.

AP

Black Eyed Peas singer apl.de.ap gestures as he answers questions during a press conference Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009 in suburban Pasay City south of Manila, Philippines.

## Hayden Kho, Vicki's daughter make peace

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—One unsung heroine in the aftermath of "Ondoy"—and I am sure she prefers it that way—is Cristalle Belo-Henares, who has worked tirelessly to bring relief goods and medical assistance to affected communities.

Together with volunteers from the Belo Medical Group, Cristalle has personally handed out food and supplies to thousands of families in Marikina. Belo doctors were likewise on hand to provide much-needed help. That's true beauty for you, inside and out.

Kho

It is an open secret in show biz circles that Cristalle and Hayden Kho are not exactly on friendly terms, but both were happy to set aside whatever differences for the greater good.

Aside from their common concern for "Ondoy" victims, Cristalle and Hayden also both love one superwoman, Vicki, who never fails to give her best to love even when things are at their worst.

Cowboy party

Aubrey Miles and Troy Montero's firstborn, Hunter, turned 1 year old last Oct. 3. The fab couple hosted a cowboy-theme party for him.

Celebrity guests were Ara Mina, Jeni Hernandez, Geneva Cruz, KC Montero, Heaven Arespacochaga, JM Rodriguez and Will Devaughn. Also present were Jacq Yu, Aubrey's best friend and partner in "Amazing Race Asia," and ninongs Tim Yap and Mico Palanca.

Why the Wild West motif?

"I've always wanted to be a cowgirl," she said, laughing. "Buntis pa lang ako naisip ko na 'yung first birthday n'ya. Gusto ko cowboy theme and super gusto din ni Cody (Troy's nickname) kasi his mom and dad are originally from Texas."

The birthday boy was wide awake during the entire bash, hugging all the kids. He surely has the makings of a party animal like his mom and a heartthrob like his dad.

"What I love about him is that he likes crowded places so we never have a problem bringing him anywhere I go, even at the gym."

Will the proud parents allow Hunter to join show biz someday? "I'm not sure about show biz right now. Siguro TV commercials."

Parenting just got hipper and sexier with daddy Troy and mommy Aubrey. Just like the cowboy theme of Hunter's party, they know how to keep things fun not just as parents but also as a couple.

## Gerald-Sarah team-up in the works

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**NAGA CITY**—Actor Gerald Anderson said the accident involving co-actor Coco Martin on the set of "Tayong Dalawa" has taught him a valuable lesson.

"I realized that it could happen to me, too. It was traumatic for Coco and it was also distressing for me. It could have been me or Jake (Cuenca, another "Tayong Dalawa" co-star) sprawled on the floor," Gerald told Inquirer Entertainment.

Coco suffered an eye injury and facial burns when a blasting cap—used in movies to simulate gunshots—exploded prematurely while he was shooting a scene for the defunct top-rating series. Coco was brought to the UST Hospital where fragments of the blasting cap and pieces from his ripped jacket were removed from his left eye.

"Kinabahan kami [We got worried]," recalled Gerald. "I saw Coco writhing in pain. At first, we weren't sure if he's OK. We saw a lot of blood. I helped carry him and brought him to the hospital. He's OK now. It was good that the wounds weren't too deep."

'Tiagong Akyat'

Gerald is currently seen in "Agimat: Mga Alamat ni Ramon Revilla," where he's required to do a number of action scenes while portraying the role the legendary outlaw Tiagong Akyat.

"I didn't train for what I'm doing in the series," said Gerald. "I just rehearse with a fight instructor on the set. I've been a fan of action films since I was young. It helped that I like watching Jackie Chan films."

Gerald added that he would do another movie with on-screen partner Kim Chiu, with "Ikaw Na Nga" as working title.

Anderson

Their last movie pairing was the hit romantic flick "I've Fallen For You" in 2007.

A movie with Sarah Geronimo is reportedly in the works, too. "I'm open to making films with other actresses," Gerald pointed out. "I've heard that Kimerald (Kim-Gerald) fans are opposed to this. I understand them, but I know this will help me grow as an actor."

Gerald was part of ABS-CBN's Peñafrancia Kapamilya Karavan held here. Some 10,000 Bicolanos turned up at Plaza Quezon on Elias Angeles Street for the chance to meet him, as well as actors Matt Evans and Melissa Ricks, according to Channel 2 area manager Amy Villafuerte.

The event started around 4 p.m. Comedian Dennis Padilla hosted the pre-program activities with Glenda Reynolds and Suzain Aguilar of the local variety show "Mag-TV na, Oragon!"

Gerald, dressed in a black T-shirt and faux leather jacket, joined an apple-eating contest.

## Ex-worker sues Eat Bulaga producer

By JULIE M. AURELIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—An ex-technical staff member of an outfit producing a popular noontime show has filed a complaint against its officials for violation of the Social Security Act and other laws.

In an affidavit before the Quezon City prosecutors office, Ramil Cirujano filed a case against Television and Production Exponent Inc. officials, producer of "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

Named as respondents in the case were TAPE president Antonio Tuviera, senior vice president for administration Leslie Dioniso, senior vice president for finance Zenaida Buenavista, and other officials.

Cirujano, who claimed to have worked for several years as an audio man for "Eat Bulaga," alleged that the respondents violated provisions of Republic Act 8282 or the Social Security Act and RA 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act.

In a complaint filed this week, Cirujano claimed he was fired from his job after he was unable to attend dry runs for the show in May 2009.

The complainant said his work as an audio man included testing audio equipment before any show, and to make sure that the personalities on stage always had enough audio equipment.

Cirujano claimed that he was not issued an appointment paper or a contract of employment, and that he asked to be given regularization papers.

He said in May 2009, memoranda were posted on office bulletin boards directing all personnel of the Engineering Department to stay after the show to attend dry runs.

"Sensing that I am not included in the memo, I did not attend all the dry runs but to my surprise, I was issued a memorandum of reprimand on May 27," the complaint read.

The complainant said he was asked to explain his absence in the dry runs and that he also attended two administrative hearings along with other employees on several occasions.

Cirujano said he received a memorandum terminating him as an employee of the company in August 2009.

In the memorandum, the management said it did not find Cirujano's explanations satisfactory as the memorandum pointed out that Cirujano did not give categorical reasons for his absences.

It added that Cirujano committed willful disobedience of the company's orders.

But the former employee claimed that based on the chronology of events until his termination, "the mode upon which termination was conducted is indicative that I am a regular employee."

He alleged that TAPE failed to enroll him in Philhealth and the Pag Ibig Fund. Cirujano also alleged that the company "continuously ignored our right to become regular employees which is violative of the Social Security Act."

# Maharlika – Opinyon

## EDITORIAL

## Amorphous

Three days after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the executive order creating a reconstruction commission, and two days after she announced its existence, the EO remains unnumbered and unreleased. All the general public has to go by is the series of announcements from Malacañang.

We understand the sense of urgency that must have animated the early disclosure. The epic scale of the devastation wrought by "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" grows bigger, and more stark, with each day's passing. But the laundry list of responsibilities assigned to the Special National Public-Private Reconstruction Commission, to use its full name, strikes us as overly broad, amorphous even.

We reiterate our stance that a joint undertaking of the government and the private sector only blurs accountabilities, and that it may be best for private sector leaders to join government representatives in a fact-finding commission instead.

But even given the reconstruction commission's own announced objectives, there seems to be considerable overlap with the functions of other government institutions.

To quote from the official line—quite literally, the phrasing recurring in the announcement of the Office of the Press Secretary and in the release of the Philippine Information Agency—the commission will "study the causes of the weather abnormalities, what actions to take to prepare the country and the cost such actions will entail."

Efforts are already underway to "study the causes of the weather abnormalities." The Senate committee on climate change, for instance, has already started its inquiry. How will the commission's work differ from that already in process?

Also, the transparent idea behind this particular cluster of objectives is to help make the case for the Philippines as a victim of climate change, the premise behind the reconstruction commission's funding program. (Presidential adviser and Albay Gov. Joey Salceda has made the point, and President Arroyo has echoed it, that a victim of climate change should not be punished—say with commercial lending rates at a time of crisis—but helped instead.) There is much to be said for this line of argument—but does the first set of objectives include determining the actual conditions that led to the great floods? This particular fact-finding work seems to us to be of paramount importance, especially as the definition of the problem defines the billion-peso solutions. But this part of the work seems to be missing, lost in the general amorphousness.

The commission's second set of objectives has been announced as follows: "It will also undertake the rehabilitation plan for wrecked infrastructure and other priorities; prioritize programs as well as oversee implementation of these programs."

As the exemplary case of the Marikina City cleanup demonstrates (as contrasted, say, with the case in Pasig City), a lot can happen, and happen fast, if the national government throws its resources behind a solution. But to choose which of the many areas needing rehabilitation to prioritize is not only a management decision, backed by the best available information; it is also a political act of will.

Will the public-private commission have the political mandate to make the tough decisions?

The third set of objectives is the one by which the commission is already known to the public: It will "also raise funds, especially grants, to fund reconstruction. It will also serve as a clearing house for international assistance implemented by donors themselves using the cluster approach."

We can understand the necessity of putting the country's best foot forward in dealing with the international community, hence, the premium Malacañang has placed on the diplomatic coup, as it were, of persuading businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan to serve as the commission's chair. But again, the commission's amorphous mandate raises questions. For instance, won't the necessarily political decision-making involved in meeting the second cluster of objectives (the rehabilitation plan) affect the commission's ability to raise funds abroad?

In sum, the reconstruction commission seems to be weighed down by the responsibilities that ought to devolve on the President herself. That she needs to create a commission to discharge the work is one more proof, the final evidence, that she is the principal victim of her own crisis of legitimacy.

**Philippine Daily Inquirer**

# Dignity

**Pinoy Kasi**

**By MICHAEL TAN**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I have been receiving inquiries from overseas Friends (Quakers, a religious group) about the kind of assistance that might be appropriate for victims of "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." There's a sense of wanting to send money right away for the relief, and I've had to ask the potential donors not to rush.

I have two reasons for asking people not to be too hasty with their donations, and both deal with dignity.

First, we need to acknowledge the efforts of Filipinos, especially those who were themselves adversely affected, to help fellow Filipinos. Local donations and initiatives have been unprecedented, with millions of pesos raised and truckloads of relief goods collected and distributed. We need to project to the world that if we ask for external assistance, it is only to complement what has already been done. We are not begging for funds.

The second reason I have asked our foreign friends to go slow is that aid needs to be appropriate. Precisely because the needs are so overwhelming, every centavo of financial aid, every relief item, counts. Many things could go wrong here and you can't just leave things to chance.

The intensive correspondence among the Friends about relief has gotten to the point where I thought I should write a column with questions that we should be asking, as individuals or organizations, about relief work. You'll find that it all boils down to appropriate aid being assistance that respects and enhances human dignity.

### Heels and gowns

First, what are we going to send? Television commentators have appealed to the public to be more selective with what they donate, and have shown concrete examples of donated items that offer more comic than material relief. Examples have been party gowns, underwear without garters (one commentator showed a stained brief!), high heels. Such inappropriate gift-giving will make recipients feel like they're being given trash. "Binabastos" (being insulted) is the term that comes to mind.

Inappropriate donations come about even with the best of intentions. Donations of junk food, soft drinks, even infant formula, can cause more harm by reinforcing unhealthy dietary preferences, and might even promote certain brand names.

Donations of medicines also need to be more carefully planned. We are now seeing flood-related diseases emerging, so consult with hospitals and health professionals about what drugs might be most needed.

In the 1980s, the Christian Medical Commission developed "Guidelines for Drug Donations" to help Protestant churches with medical donations. It warned about donations of expiring or expired drugs, drugs without labels and inessential medicines. The document has since been adopted and revised by the World Health Organization and includes suggestions of appropriate medicines for emergencies.

*Inappropriate donations come about even with the best of intentions. Donations of junk food, soft drinks, even infant formula, can cause more harm by reinforcing unhealthy dietary preferences, and might even promote certain brand names. Donations of medicines also need to be more carefully planned. We are now seeing flood-related diseases emerging, so consult with hospitals and health professionals about what drugs might be most needed.*

Second question: Are we conscious of particular needs of specific segments of the population? It's interesting that more women's clothes have been donated than men's and has led to some funny incidents where the men ended up wearing dusters (which may be fine at home but not exactly acceptable for work).

While we see an avalanche of women's clothes, we might be forgetting women's needs, day to day (e.g., sanitary napkins) as well as those related to pregnancy and breastfeeding. Moms for Moms, a small group whose name is self-explanatory, has been distributing wisely selected relief packages for new mothers, including diapers for the newborn.

The elderly are also often forgotten and the best organization in Metro Manila to go to would be Coalition of Services for the Elderly (COSE), which works with urban poor organizations.

Third, are we conscious of the need for psychosocial counseling? Both the UP and Ateneo psychology departments are offering training to handle the many forms of post-traumatic stress syndrome. Dr. Aurora Mendoza, chair of UP Diliman's psychology department, emphasized at one of our university meetings that the psychosocial support isn't just for the victims of the disasters but also for relief volunteers. Seeing the scale of human deprivation day in and day out can have its adverse effects on these volunteers.

### Developmental aid

Fourth, are we thinking of long-term needs? Donor fatigue will eventually set in, and money will run out even as the needs continue to grow.

Aid has to be developmental, meaning it should help communities to help themselves. Microfinance schemes—loans with low interest—are a possibility and are best implemented through women's community groups. Collective responsibility is important, with members of a group pressuring each other to pay back the loan promptly, so others can benefit as well.

Long-term visions can and should guide even the more immediate relief efforts. There's a lot of idle time in evacuation centers, an opportunity to hold "classes" on nutrition, health, even environmental conservation, disaster prevention and disaster management itself.

Finally, and this is the most sensitive area, who is handling the relief, especially money? Check if a group belongs to the Philippine Council for NGO Creditation (PCNC), which means their organization's accounting and general administrative procedures have been reviewed and found to be sound. I have to say though there can be small groups that do not have that accreditation but are doing fine work. A general guideline: It's better to give to organizations rather than individuals, and to community-based organizations rather than some large office with high operating overhead.

As a donor, you have the right to ask for accountability and transparency, including reports on how funds were used. If someone misspends your money, that's a violation of your dignity as well (in Tagalog, it sounds really blunt: ginagago ka—you're being fooled).

It's not always corruption that causes misuse of relief resources. Some organizations may not be prepared to handle large amounts of money or relief goods. The local health NGO community is still reeling from the shock of one major international donor asking a Filipino foundation to return $1 million in "unauthorized expenditures." The donor's press release was very cautious in stating that this was a matter of "capacity issues . . . in overall financial management."

To summarize, giving appropriately, prioritizing those who are most vulnerable, assuring transparency and accountability, thinking of long-term developmental projects—all of these build on the principle of human dignity and assure us that aid will bring out the best in people.

Acknowledgement and Resources: I want to acknowledge two Friends, Tina Montiel and Boni Quirog, who have been particularly insightful in the e-mail conversations. "Guidelines for Drug Donations" can be downloaded at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/1999/who_edm_par_99.4.pdf. COSE's is at Mariwasa Building, 717 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. 725-6567, 722-0418. PCNC is at www.pcnc.com.ph and the moms are at momsformoms.multiply.com.

# Samu't Sari

**PGFC WINNERS** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students who placed during the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Oct. 10 at Dandan Elementary School pose for a photo.

**SWEET 16** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy sweet 16th birthday to Michelle Dosalua of Tinian. Greetings coming from friends. The celebrant is the one standing in the middle with a flower on her ear.

**CONGRATULATIONS** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to PFC Olivia Serrano for completing her Basic Military Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She is seen here with her uncle Alvin Serrano in Tom's River, New Jersey.

**GREAT JOB**

Above, to Ray Lizama Jr., we wish you the best on your junior year at Saipan Southern High School. Great job on your first semester!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**KEEP IT UP!**

Right, to Charness Skilang Lizama, we wish you the best on your first year at Northern Marianas College. Keep it up!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## BON VOYAGE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A despedida party for U.S. Army PFC Carldrine "Jayboy" R. Santos, left, was held last Saturday in As Perdido. Santos left last Wednesday morning to continue his active duty in South Korea. Photo shows Santos having fun with the guys– Ren, Rod, Orly, Max, and Nards.

Above, PFC Carldrine R. Santos with the Santos family, Tita Judith, cousins J.R., Jonah, Judy Ann, and Josie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, family and friends are all smiles during the despedida party for PFC Carldrine R. Santos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Youngstyle

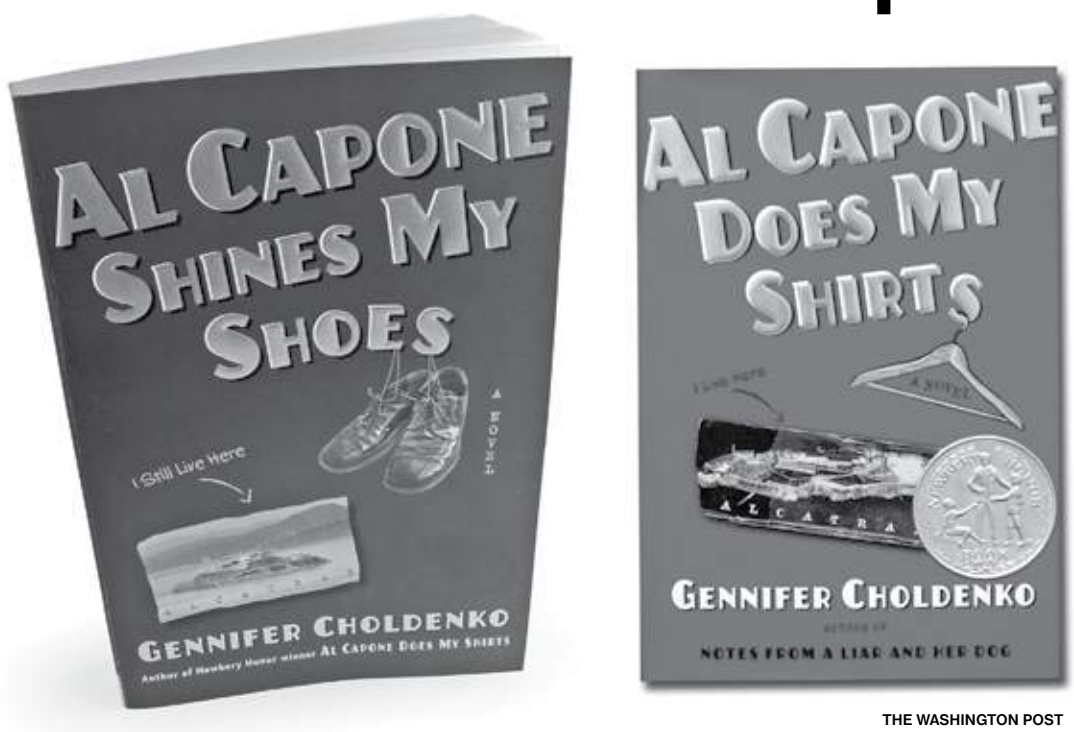
## Writer returns to Alcatraz for sequel to 'Al Capone' books

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

**"Al Capone Shines My Shoes," Dial Books, 288 pages, ages 9-12.**

"Anytime you write a book, kids want a sequel," said Gennifer Choldenko, author of the award-winning 2004 novel "Al Capone Does My Shirts." But Choldenko was worried about producing a second book featuring Moose, the 12-year-old son of a prison warden growing up on Alcatraz, the famous island prison in San Francisco Bay. She remembers, as a kid herself, being so excited to read the sequel to her favorite book, "Harriet the Spy," and then hating it when it came out. "I was furious," she said.

THE WASHINGTON POST
Writer Gennifer Choldenko did lots of research for her "Al Capone" books. Some characters in the books are based on real Alcatraz prisoners; others are fictional.




THE WASHINGTON POST
Writer Gennifer Choldenko's "Al Capone Shines My Shoes," published in September, is a sequel to the award-winning "Al Capone Does My Shirts." Both are set in Alcatraz, the famous island prison in San Francisco Bay.

So she thought long and hard before writing a sequel. "You have to ask yourself, `Is there a real reason to have a sequel, or is it just because kids want it?' "

Choldenko decided she had more stories to tell about Moose and life on Alcatraz, which for a few decades was home to some of the world's most famous criminals and also to the families of prison employees. Last month she published "Al Capone Shines My Shoes," set in 1935, in which the affable Moose gets even further drawn into life with the residents of Alcatraz — those behind bars and those not.

Choldenko has written several children's books. As historical novels her Alcatraz books required a tremendous amount of research on what life was like on the island. For the first book, she even volunteered at the Alcatraz museum to help gather information. She could do that because she lives in San Francisco with her husband, 15-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter.

The details Choldenko gathered from this research helped create a realistic picture of life on the island. As characters, she used real Alactraz prisoners as well as fictional ones.

In the first novel, Moose asks the famous gangster and prisoner Al Capone to help get his autistic older sister into a special school that could be helpful to her. She gets in, and Moose never quite knows if Capone made it happen, except that he got a note from Capone in his prison-laundered clothes: "Done." The second novel begins with Moose getting another note from Capone: "Your turn."

As Moose gets more mixed up in this uncomfortable communication with a con, he feels helpless. It's even worse when his father explains — knowing nothing of his son's connection to Capone — that once you owe a con a favor, he always "ups the ante."

Like many novelists, Choldenko based her fictional characters at least partly on reality. Moose, for example, is loosely based on her older brother. Choldenko, like Moose, also had an older sister with autism; she died when Choldenko was a teen-ager. "My brother and my sister had this really nice relationship," she said. "I was always jealous of that because he got a lot of attention around it. It was great; he deserved it."

Writing the character of Moose, she said, gave her a chance to live her brother's life a little bit.

## Prairie voles have human traits

It's hard to imagine that such cute little creatures can hold such important information about humans, but that's what scientists have discovered about the adorable prairie vole.

Studying prairie voles is telling scientists more about human behavior than studies on "just about any other species," said Larry J. Young, researcher at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. It turns out this furry rodent, which lives in grassy fields in the Midwest, does a lot of things the same way humans do.

For example, prairie voles stay with one mate for life, which is unusual among mammals. They also produce two brain chemicals that play a role in how people feel and act. One helps human mothers bond with their babies. The other creates the kind of intense happiness you might feel after eating something delicious or even winning a football game.

Studying these creatures could lead to better understanding and treatment of autism and other disorders.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

## How tall can trees grow

By MOIRA E. MCLAUGHLIN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

**WASHINGTON**—Climb any good trees lately? The United States is home to the world's tallest tree: the redwood. These trees are a little too tall for you to climb, though. They can grow to be more than 300 feet tall and can live to be 2,000 years old. (Redwoods are not the oldest trees in the world, though. Bristlecone pine trees in the western United States can live to be 5,000 years old!)

The tallest known redwood measures 379.1 feet. That's more than half the height of the Washington Monument. Scientists discovered the tree in 2006 and named it Hyperion. It lives somewhere in Redwood National Park in California, but scientists won't say exactly where in order to protect it.

Redwoods thrive in a moist climate and get more than 30 percent of their water from fog. They are resistant to bugs and fungus. Another reason for their survival: They can regenerate. If the top of the tree or a limb breaks, the tree can grow a new one. When they do that, they are called second-generation redwoods.

The giant sequoia tree is another tall tree that grows in California, but it's not quite as tall as the redwood. It can grow to be about 300 feet. It is, however, considered bigger than the redwood, because it's wider (or has a bigger diameter).

You can see a redwood and a giant sequoia in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, although they won't be quite so tall as their California cousins. (They are only about 25 feet.)

## Why teens stay up late—and school starts early

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

*Valerie Strauss writes the Answer Sheet education blog for washingtonpost.com, from which this is adapted.*

**WASHINGTON**—It's 10:45 p.m. and the light is still on in your teenager's bedroom. Your child is not the slightest bit tired—but you know that waking him or her early for school the next morning will be torture.

It may be tempting to blame this behavior on computers, cellphones and coffee. And, in some cases, those are the prime reasons for nocturnal teen behavior.

But, researchers say, this late-to-bed and late-to-rise pattern is the way teenagers are biologically programmed—even though most school systems gloss over this when setting high school start times.

Some districts have respected the science enough to give teens more sleep-in time—and researchers have found a number of benefits, including improvements in attendance and daytime alertness and decreased depression.

But most school districts cite after-school sports and other activities, bus routes, and other scheduling issues as reasons for starting between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.

As a result, the majority of teens don't get the 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 hours of sleep that experts say they should, according to the National Sleep Foundation. In fact, the average is about 7 hours of sleep a night for teens.

Watch exhausted teens walk into their high school on any given morning, eyes half-closed with coffee cup in hand, and you can see the scope of the problem. One study of Rhode Island teenagers found that 85 percent of teens got at least 10 hours of sleep less than they should. A Drexel University study found that only 20 percent of 12- to 18-year-olds studied got the recommended sleep on school nights.

Researchers over the past decade have learned that a teen's body is different than those of younger and older people. Most teens can't easily fall asleep until about 11 p.m., experts say, and their brains stay in sleep mode until at least 8 a.m.

A study led by Brown University professor Mary Carskadon, tested the saliva of teens, measuring the presence of the sleep-promoting hormone melatonin at different times of the day.

Carskadon, who teaches human behavior and is director of sleep research at E.P. Bradley Hospital in Rhode Island, found that the melatonin levels rise later at night than they do in children and adults—and remain at a higher level later in the morning.

Why melatonin is secreted in the teenage brain from about 11 p.m. until about 8 a.m. the next morning is unclear, experts say.

But experts say they do know that the consequences to teen sleep deprivation more serious than classrooms full of sleepy kids. Helene Emsellem, medical director of the Center for Sleep & Wake Disorders in Chevy Chase, Md., and author of "Snooze... or Lose!" wrote her in book that there are physical, emotional, academic and behavioral effects:

a) Going without enough sleep can make a teen more likely to get sick. Why? Because the number of T-cells in the body—cells which help us stay healthy—falls by 30 to 40 percent.

b) Sleep-deprived teens get more headaches than those that don't.

c) Students who earn C's and below go to sleep later and have less regular sleep patterns than students who get better grades. Sleep affects learning and memory.

d) Sleep-deprived teens are more likely to use alcohol and drugs than those who don't.

Some school systems around the country have taken heed of the research findings and moved to start high school at later times. Pioneers were two Minneapolis-area school districts—Edina, a suburban district which changed its start time from 7:20 to 8:30 a.m. in the 1990s, and then Minneapolis Public Schools, which changed the start time for thousands of high school students from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. in the 1997-98 school year.

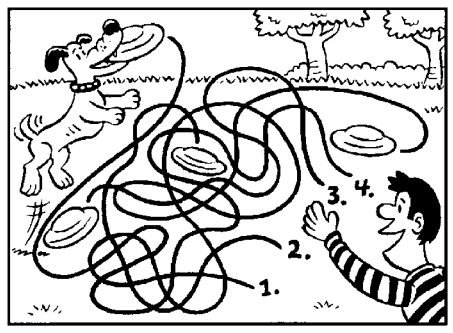
The effects were studied for several years by researchers at the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, led by director Kyla Wahlstrom.

They found that students were more alert and students reported higher grades (though how much higher is unclear). Meanwhile, some sports practices were shortened but sports continued, as did after-school jobs.

Since then more than 80 school districts have changed their start times, according to the sleep foundation, including the Arlington, Va., public schools, which gave high school students 45 extra minutes to sleep starting in 2001. No studies were done on the effects but students reported being more alert.

In Jessamine County in Kentucky, according to a case study by the sleep foundation, the school district swapped the starting times of elementary school with high school in 2003. Though young children have no biological problem going to sleep early and waking up early, elementary school started later than high school.

Before the change, high school started at 7:30 a.m., middle school at 7:40 a.m. and elementary school at 8:30 a.m.. Afterward, elementary school started at 8 a.m., middle school at 8:50 a.m. and high school at 8:40 a.m. School officials said students quickly were more alert and focused on their studies.



**DOGGIE DEXTERITY!** Can you guess on which of the four tosses Rover caught the Frisbee?

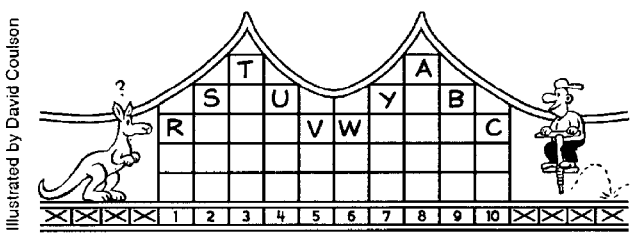
Answer: Toss 4.

# Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

**A WORD BRIDGE!**

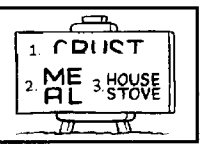



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. Used to pump oil.
2. Worn about the waist.
3. A seashore treat.
4. A military group.
5. By way of.
6. A humorous person.
7. Holiday veggies.
8. A building material.
9. A healing salve or oil.
10. An eccentric wheel.

Answers: 1. Rig. 2. Sash. 3. Taffy. 4. Unit. 5. Via. 6. Wag. 7. Yams. 8. Adobe. 9. Balm. 10. Cam.

**DOODLE-WORDS!** The items pictured here can represent a saying or a thing. See if you can figure them out.




Answers: 1. Upper crust. 2. Square meal. 3. Home on the range.

**WHAT'S ON TODAY'S SCHEDULE?** Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

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1. Crude painting.
2. A folded meal.
3. Stakes in card games.
4. Body of water.

GRID A

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| D | | | |
| | A | | |
| | | T | |
| | | | E |

GRID B

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| B | | | |
| | O | | |
| | | O | |
| | | | K |

1. Computer unit of speed.
2. A cold fighter.
3. To find in a crowd.
4. A breach of secrecy.

Answers: 1. Daub-baud. 2. Taco-coat. 3. Pots-spot. 4. Lake-leak.

# Holistic cat care, dog sign language

This month's pet books provide interesting alternative outlooks on training and care for pets of all ages.

Many pet owners are interested in providing as healthy a lifestyle for their pets as they are for the rest of their family. I've answered many questions in the past about raw-food diets and herbal medicine. For cat owners, the latest addition to the slowly increasing number of books on the subject is "The Complete Guide to Holistic Cat Care" by Celeste Yarnall, Ph.D, and Jean Hofve, DVM (Quarry Books).

This full-color handbook is filled with information and illustrations on cat care, and provides advice on healthy natural diets, herbal remedies, alternative treatments like acupuncture, and most helpfully, an index of resources to help owners find things like environmentally friendly cat litter and holistic practicioners. This is a very good overview of alternative methods of cat care, and an excellent starting place for owners searching for a better way to care for their pet.

Dog owners might be interested in a new offering from pet expert and cognitive psychologist Sean Senechal. "Dogs Can Sign, Too: A Breakthrough Method for Teaching Your Dog to Communicate to You" (Ten Speed Press/Celestial Arts) is a fascinating manual that takes training beyond obedience and into improved communication.

While the book seems a bit wordy up front, it soon delves into practical, step-by-step training methods for you and your dog. Senechal builds on natural cues that dogs tend to make to their owners, and provides training steps that enable dog and human to signal more effectively. But I'm not explaining this method well enough—pick up a copy of this book and prepare to look at training in a new way.

■ ■ ■

*Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.*

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was American columnist Franklin Pierce Adams who made the following sage observation: "Seeing ourselves as others see us would probably confirm our worst suspicions about them."

■ If you're like the average human, your heart will beat 100,000 times today.

■ Before Humphrey Bogart became a famed star of the silver screen, he was famous for another reason. Bogart's mother painted a portrait of little Humphrey as a baby, and that portrait was used as a trademark for Mellin's baby-food company.

■ John Quincy Adams was the first U.S. president to be photographed.

■ If you're a stargazer—or a night owl—you might already be aware of the fact that you can see about five times as many shooting stars after midnight as you can see before.

■ Lexicographers claim that "queue" is the only word in the English language whose pronunciation does not change when the last four letters are removed.

■ Only about 5 percent of the salt produced every year winds up on the dinner table to be used as a seasoning. And you might be surprised to learn the diverse purposes for which the other 95 percent is used: packing meat and feeding livestock, of course, but also building roads, tanning leather and manufacturing such items as soap, ash, detergents and glass.

■ Here's a fun experiment: Pour a glass of champagne, then drop in a raisin. The carbonation in the drink will cause the raisin to bounce up and down continuously until the wine goes flat.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second."—Logan Pearsall Smith

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## MAGIC MAZE ● GATED WORDS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | I | Q | N | L | J | G | E | T | A | G | I | T | I | L |
| E | N | C | Z | X | V | F | T | T | R | P | A | N | L | J |
| D | V | H | E | C | A | Y | U | W | A | I | F | V | T | R |
| E | E | T | A | G | E | N | P | M | L | G | R | N | L | K |
| L | S | I | G | E | E | T | A | G | I | T | I | M | C | B |
| E | T | A | G | I | T | S | A | C | Z | G | G | R | X | W |
| G | I | U | S | R | E | T | A | G | I | V | A | N | R | P |
| A | G | A | T | E | E | O | M | L | L | J | T | T | I | I |
| T | A | G | E | E | T | A | G | N | O | L | E | D | E | B |
| E | T | A | G | U | J | B | U | S | A | Y | O | X | W | U |
| T | E | T | A | G | O | R | R | E | T | N | I | T | S | Q |

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agate | Frigate | Irrigate | Subjugate |
| Castigate | Fumigate | Mitigate | Tailgate |
| Delegate | Interrogate | Navigate | Tollgate |
| Elongate | Investigate | Negate | |

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## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | − | | x | | 25 |
| ÷ | | x | | ÷ | |
| | x | | + | | 19 |
| + | | − | | x | |
| | − | | x | | 8 |
| 13 | | 20 | | 20 | |

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 9

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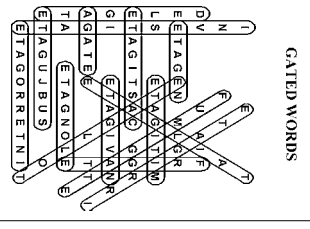
**MAGIC MAZE ANSWER**



GATED WORDS

**GO FIGURE ANSWER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | − | 3 | x | 5 | 25 |
| 2 | x | 9 | + | 1 | 19 |
| 9 | − | 7 | x | 4 | 8 |
| 13 | | 20 | | 20 | |

# Light up a monster patrol pathway

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Light and decorate the walkway to your porch with spooky paper bag characters on Halloween night. This clever monster patrol is a takeoff of traditional luminaries, but instead of using a candle, a simple flashlight lights the path to tricks and treats at your doorstep. Or, if you are having a party, set them on a windowsill to peer at costumed guests.

So, what will they be? A cat? Goofy alien? Frankenstein? You'll have time to decide as you cut and paste using these supplies:

■ Standard-size brown or bright-colored lunch bags
■ Craft foam sheets or poster board
■ Yarn, pipe cleaners, charms, ribbon, glitter, beads
■ Scissors
■ Glue
■ Hole punch (optional)
■ Inexpensive standard-size, plastic, lightweight flashlights
■ Rubber bands

## Here's the fun:

For each character, cut out craft foam sheets or poster board in eyes, nose and mouth shapes. Cut out holes in the middle of the eye and mouth pieces to eventually allow light to shine through. Glue the features to the front of the bag. When dry, an adult may use a small, sharp scissors or a craft knife to cut out the center of the eyes and mouth on the bag.

The kids can add the details. Glue on rickrack eyebrows, attach lightweight junk jewelry earrings or pipe-cleaner antennae, depending on what you are creating. Add some glitter for cheeks or outline lips with shiny beads. And don't forget goofy hair. Add braided yarn and fashion a major 'do. It's also fun to use a hole punch to make additional features or patterns that will be revealed when the flashlight is turned on.

When complete, carefully slip it over the top of the flashlight with a rubber band, just above the switch. Line up your own monster patrol outside at dusk and flip on flashlights before ghosts and goblins appear at your doorstep.

See a video demonstration of this idea online at www.donnasday.com.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: If your grandchild is afraid of the dark, make a nightlight together using the steps above to create a comforting character such as an angel, a puppy or a bunny with felt ears. Place this "bedtime buddy" by his bed, and he can switch it on and off when he wishes.

■ ■ ■

*Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.*

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# Life & Style

## Court files: Blackmail threats 'alarmed' Letterman

**NORWALK, Conn.** (AP)—David Letterman felt "threatened, alarmed and concerned" about the impact to his family life and career after a newsman tried to blackmail him by disclosing his sexual affairs, according to court documents released Thursday.

CBS News producer Robert J. "Joe" Halderman told Letterman in a package of materials he sent that he had "a lot more" documents to back up his threat and needed to "make a large chunk of money," according to search warrant affidavits. The additional evidence, Halderman said, included letters, e-mails and photos, authorities said.

Halderman pleaded not guilty to trying to extort $2 million from Letterman to keep some of the comedian's sexual affairs quiet. A message left Thursday with Halderman's attorney was not immediately returned.

According to the court documents, the package Halderman sent included a demand letter, a treatment for a screenplay, photos, personal correspondence and portions of a diary.

In this Oct. 2, 2009 file photo, Robert J. Halderman appears in State Supreme Court in New York for an arraignment on an attempted grand larceny charge.

AP

Letterman "feels threatened, alarmed and concerned about the impact of the disclosure of his personal information on his family life and career," the court records state.

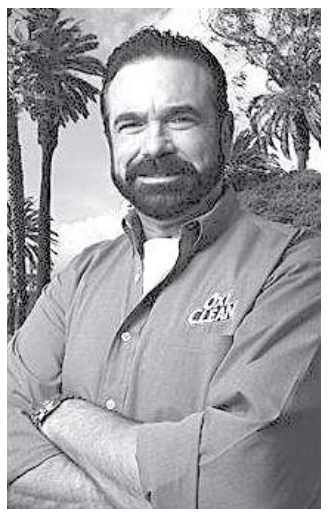
Letterman is not named specifically in the court documents, but they refer to "Client No. 1" as a public figure who faced the threat of "a ruined reputation" and damage to his career and family life. The documents referred to Letterman's "great professional success" and said Letterman's "world is about to collapse around him," authorities said.

Authorities also seized computer equipment, a camera memory card, banking information, photos, a magazine featuring Letterman and other items from Halderman's home.

Halderman, 51, a producer for CBS' "48 Hours Mystery," allegedly used diary entries by his former girlfriend—outlining her affair with Letterman—to extort money from the talk show star

## Mays' family: Review finds no chronic cocaine use

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—The family of TV pitchman Billy Mays released the findings of an independent medical examiner Thursday, who concluded that the informercial star's cocaine use was not a significant contributing factor in his sudden death.



AP

In this Feb. 8, 2009 file image originally released by Discovery Channel, the late TV pitchman Billy Mays is shown in Santa Monica, Calif.

The report, released by a family spokeswoman, does not refute Mays' cocaine use, but states there is no evidence to suggest he was a chronic user. A review of the official autopsy also concludes that "cocaine was not a significant contributing factor" in his death.

"There is no evidence that Mr. Mays' death was related to acute cocaine intoxication with coronary artery spasm or dissection or even aortic dissection for that matter," wrote Dr. William Manion, the independent medical examiner who conducted the review. "Rather, the use of cocaine by Mr. Mays appears to have occurred a remote time several days before his death."

Mays, 50, was found dead in his family's Tampa condo in June.

The Hillsborough County medical examiner's office conducted the official autopsy. The office classified his death as "natural" but said that cocaine use contributed to the heart disease that killed him. Mays' family disagreed with that finding.

"We found this to be so upsetting that we asked for review by an independent medical examiner," Deborah Mays, the late pitchman's wife, said in a statement Thursday.

Manion, chief of pathology for Virtua Health, a multi-hospital health care system based in Marlton, N.J., wrote that he was asked to review the official autopsy and address "the question of whether or not cocaine was a significant contributing cause" in Mays' death.

## Garth Brooks says he's coming out of retirement

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Garth Brooks is coming to The Strip. The country superstar and casino owner Steve Wynn announced Thursday afternoon that Brooks will be taking over the Encore theater at Wynn Las Vegas about 15 weeks a year, perhaps for the next five years. And it only cost the entrepreneur a jet.

"I told him he couldn't afford me," Brooks said while sitting on stage with Wynn. "I was wrong. Wow."

Wynn bought the jet for Brooks so the best-selling solo act could continue to spend a maximum amount of time with his three teenage daughters and still perform. His youngest child has five years till she's off to college, and the deal Brooks and Wynn struck is flexible enough to guarantee the singer won't miss a precious moment.

He'll play shows on select Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning Dec. 11. The plane lets him leave his Oklahoma home at 6 on Fridays and return home in time on Sundays so he can be ready to drive his girls to school the next morning.

"Every argument we ever had about why we shouldn't do this, he had an answer to," Brooks said of Wynn.

He got a simple answer when he asked what happens if things don't work out: Wynn told him, "You quit."

"We've agreed to a relationship together and that relationship I hope lasts for the entire five years," Wynn said.

Brooks, 47, started the day in Nashville where he told reporters he was coming out of the retirement he announced in 2000. Brooks wanted to spend more time with his children, and has accomplished that goal.

He said every member of his family signed off on the deal. The girls range in age from 13 to 17 and weren't exactly upset that dad might be getting out from underfoot some of the time, he said. Brooks' wife, Trisha Yearwood, also signed off on the plan, as did his ex-wife, Sandy Mahl.


*In Humble Gratitude*

We the family of the late

†LUCIA CASTRO BRACINAS

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles.
We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you.

***Thank You and may God Bless us All!***

***Abel Songsong Barcinas***
***Children and Families***

AP

In this April 6, 2009 file photo, Garth Brooks poses backstage at the ACM Artist of the Decade All Star Concert in Las Vegas.

## Depeche Mode rep denies singer made slip in Peru

AP

British band Depeche Mode's lead vocalist Dave Gahan performs in concert in Bogota's Simon Bolivar Park, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A Depeche Mode representative is disputing reports that the British pop band's lead singer inadvertently sent a shout-out to the wrong country at a concert in Peru.

Peruvian news media buzzed with the story after a video of Tuesday's performance was posted on Youtube. In the clip, it sounds as though frontman Dave Gahan shouts "Thank you very much, Chile!" to a sea of cheering fans.

Depechemode.com Web master Daniel Barassi denied the faux pas took place via email. According to Barassi, Gahan actually said: "Thank you very much, good night!" as he customarily does at the end of a show.

The South American neighbors are historic rivals who fought a 19th century war and still argue over everything from their border to which country is the originator of pisco, a potent grape brandy.

# Lindsay Lohan ordered to appear in court

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Lindsay Lohan has another date with a judge.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Marsha Revel has ordered the "Mean Girls" star to appear in a Beverly Hills, Calif., courtroom Friday morning.

The 23-year-old actress was placed on three years of probation in 2007 after she pleaded guilty to two counts of being under the influence of cocaine, and no contest to two counts of drunken driving and one count of reckless driving. She spent 84 minutes in jail.

It is unclear why Lohan has been ordered to appear. The judge's order was made during a routine progress report hearing on Wednesday.

Court records show that no warrant has been issued, and they do not reflect a probation violation has occurred.

E-mails to Lohan's publicist and attorney were not immediately returned Thursday.

Lohan's probation has not been without incident. Since January, the actress has escaped further punishment twice after her substance abuse treatment program notified the court she had violated the rules.

Both instances were described as misunderstandings.

AP

In this Aug. 17, 2009 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan attends a Cinema Society screening of "Inglourious Basterds" in New York.

# Defense rests in Bahamas John Travolta extortion trial

**NASSAU, Bahamas** (AP)—An emergency medical technician involved in attempts to save John Travolta's teenage son spent most of Thursday on the witness stand explaining why he gave conflicting reports about his role.

Marcus Garvey is the only defense witness that lawyers called in the trial of an ambulance driver and a former senator accused of trying to blackmail the Hollywood actor.

Defense attorneys had hoped Garvey's testimony would show that Travolta tried to buy a document he signed releasing emergency responders from liability if the family refused an ambulance for 16-year-old Jett Travolta, who died Jan. 2 after suffering a seizure.

Prosecutors contend that former senator Pleasant Bridgewater and ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne threatened to use the document to sell stories to the media suggesting Travolta was at fault in his son's death—unless the movie star paid $25 million.

Garvey only said that an unidentified man offered him money to get the document and that he gave the man Lightbourne's phone number.

Garvey also denied telling an online celebrity news Web site that he tried to save Jett in the corridor of Travolta's vacation home on Grand Bahama.

Garvey said he did appear in a videotaped interview but did not want to talk about it.

"I don't want to answer that," Garvey told chief prosecutor Bernard Turner. "How much more clear can I be?"

Garvey told jurors Thursday that he never arrived at Travolta's house, rather drove the ambulance that intercepted another unit transporting Jett to the hospital. Garvey said he examined the teen and found multiple signs that he was already dead.

Travolta signed the release of liability form because he had hoped to fly his son to the U.S. for treatment. But police said the document never came into play because Jett was taken to a local hospital.

Bridgewater has denied the charges and accused Travolta's attorneys of setting her up.

Defense attorneys, who rested their case Thursday, had planned to call three other witnesses but said they were unavailable.

The judge expected to instruct the jury on Tuesday.

# Goldberg helps to bring 'Head Games' to TV

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg says she's always been a geek and that comes in handy for a new science trivia show she's producing.

"Head Games" on the Science Channel is a cheeky take on the game show genre. Goldberg says it's a mashup of an "endless" number of games. It uses humor, facts and videos to test the intellect of contestants and viewers alike, with questions about astronauts burping in space and how Tennessee meat goats react to stress. (They faint.)

Goldberg calls that segment fantastic because it leaves viewers wondering why. Why don't goats get "gassy or something?" she said. She added that that's the "kind of stuff that I think about."

Goldberg says she has many interests and considers herself a curious person.

AP

Actress Whoopie Goldberg introduces Steven Spielberg before he was awarded the 2009 Liberty Medal at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia on Thursday night, Oct. 8, 2009.

"Where there are places you can ask questions and get answers, those are places I like to dwell in, and science is one of those things because its not just science with beakers, theres all kinds of science."

"Head Games" premieres on the Science Channel on Saturday at 9 p.m. EST.

# 'Dancing With the Stars' plans Jackson tribute

In this April 20, 2002 file picture, Michael Jackson performs "Dangerous" during the taping of the American Bandstand's 50th anniversary show in Pasadena, Calif.

AP

**NEW YORK** (AP)—"Dancing With the Stars" says it plans to honor Michael Jackson with a special performance by the 16 professional dancers participating in this season's competition.

The hour will pay tribute to the King of Pop with a medley of Jackson songs representing different eras of his long career, in a fusion of classic ballroom and Latin styles.

One member of the "Dancing With the Stars" troupe, Cheryl Burke, says Jackson and his music are "an inspiration to every dancer." Being part of this tribute, she says, "is an honor."

The program airs Tuesday at 9 p.m. Eastern on ABC.

# Friend involved with married man will have to go it alone

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY**: My best friend "Jenny's" husband died four years ago. They had been married 28 years, and she has grieved hard for him. She has been looking for a relationship because she wants a man in her life.

Three months ago, she ran into a married man she knew through her former job. (I'll call him "George.") They were casual acquaintances, but when George learned she was a widow he immediately asked for her phone number. He called the next day, they talked, he visited her at her home, and they had unprotected sex. They now see each other once or twice a week and have sex. That's all they do. Jenny says she's in love with him. She talks about him constantly and says she's very happy.

My husband and I were at a club the other night and saw George in the company of another woman. I haven't told Jenny because she doesn't want to be told if her man is cheating on her. She says that what she doesn't know won't hurt her. I disagree. If he's having unprotected sex with her, it's probably the same with the other woman. George appears to be a player and Jenny has blinders on. I'm worried about her.

I don't want to ruin our friendship. We love each other like sisters. But I hate seeing her used like this. What should I do? My husband says leave it alone—she'll find out anyway.

DISMAYED IN DALLAS

**DEAR DISMAYED: When someone tells you she doesn't want to know if her man is cheating on her and what she doesn't know won't hurt her, take it from me, she already knows he probably is. And by the way, George isn't "her" man—he is his wife's man. How do you know he wasn't with his wife that night at the club?**

**You may love Jenny like a sister, but you can't save her. Your husband is right. Leave it alone.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I work for a small company where I'm one of 12 employees under one manager. My boss, "Debbie," is having problems at home. Almost daily, she brings her not-so-sunny outlook to the office and proceeds to drag everyone else down.

Any time a colleague has something positive to share, Debbie finds a way to negate it. If someone mentions it's nice weather, she'll complain about how much yard work she needs to do and the disastrous effects of global warming. She even complained that a pregnant co-worker's impending maternity leave will be "inconvenient."

The woman thrives on negativity, chaos and stress. She even complains about happy times of the year like summer vacations and holidays because we tend to be busier. (Isn't that a good thing considering the economic climate?)

Our office is small, so there's no escaping her. If she's not complaining to us, she's telling the same sob stories to a client on the phone. What can my co-workers and I do to keep from being dragged down with her?

WORKING FOR "DEBBIE DOWNER INC."

**DEAR WORKING: You and your co-workers should talk to your employer as a group because "Debbie's" behavior is neither professional nor conducive to a healthy working environment. Your boss should also be told that she is sharing her "sob stories" with clients, because it could cost him business.**

**Debbie may or may not need psychological counseling, but she definitely needs to be "counseled" about leaving her personal problems at the door when she enters the work environment. And the person to stress that to her is HER boss.**

---

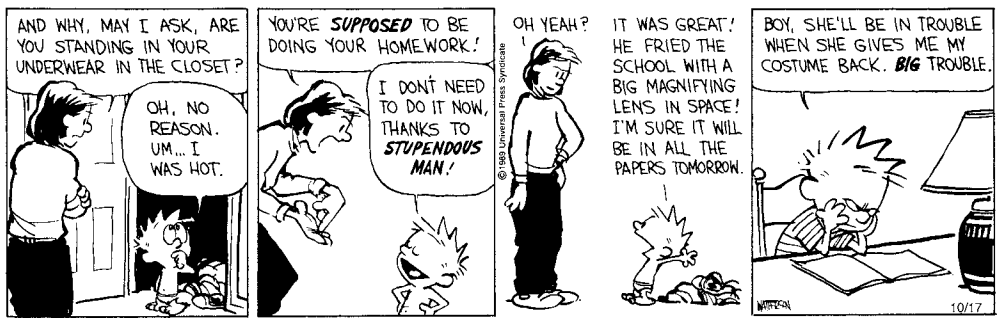
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AND WHY, MAY I ASK, ARE YOU STANDING IN YOUR UNDERWEAR IN THE CLOSET?
OH, NO REASON. UM... I WAS HOT.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING YOUR HOMEWORK!
I DON'T NEED TO DO IT NOW, THANKS TO STUPENDOUS MAN!
© 1993 Universal Press Syndicate
OH YEAH?
IT WAS GREAT! HE FRIED THE SCHOOL WITH A BIG MAGNIFYING LENS IN SPACE! I'M SURE IT WILL BE IN ALL THE PAPERS TOMORROW.
BOY, SHE'LL BE IN TROUBLE WHEN SHE GIVES ME MY COSTUME BACK. BIG TROUBLE.
10/17

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I REMEMBER MY AUNT ORLEEN CARRIED A REALLY BIG PURSE AROUND ALL THE TIME
HER RIGHT BICEPS WAS AS BIG AS HER THIGH
SHE WAS A SIGHT IN A STRAPLESS EVENING GOWN
AND THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR MY NEW NIGHTMARE
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 10-17

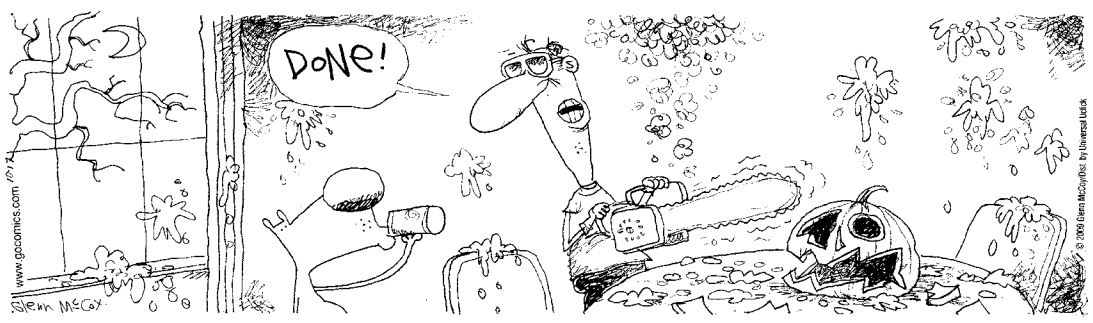
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AHHH... SATURDAYS. LIL' QUALITY TIME WITH THE NEWSPAPER!
© 2009 Universal Uclick
I CHECK OUT SPORTS FIRST, THEN LOCAL, COMICS, WEATHER... POLITICS... BUSINESS... PUZZLES...
10-17
www.gocomics.com
IF ONLY THERE THERE WERE A "COFFEE SECTION."
OH, I THINK YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED WITH THEIR COFFEE COVERAGE.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

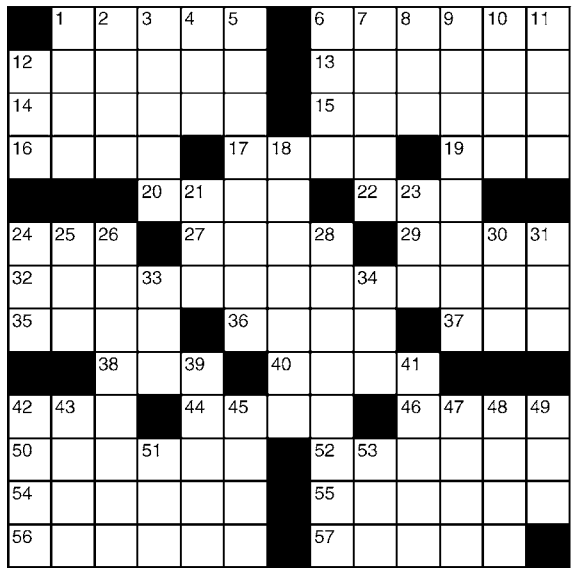
**ACROSS**
1 Reverie
6 With a sharp tone
12 Rice-and-saffron recipe
13 "Some Like It Hot" star
14 Stand for a hot dish
15 Building
16 Hathaway or Heche
17 Jog
19 Journey segment
20 Poet Teasdale
22 Under the weather
24 Fool
27 Office part-timer
29 Bassoon's cousin
32 "Keep Off"
35 Taiwanese dollar
36 Bollywood costume
37 Excessively
38 Crash into
40 Assessment
42 Cornfield noise
44 Makes up one's mind
46 Picture of health?
50 Kampala's land
52 Chant
54 Having depth
55 Fortune-telling decks
56 Gallery stands
57 Related on mom's side

**DOWN**
1 Fix a sock
2 Check
3 Staff at the Pole
4 Hearty quaff
5 You can sleep on it
6 Magazine articles?
7 Raccoon relative
8 Squid squirt
9 It can be boring
10 Unmatched
11 Safecracker
12 Sch. org.
18 Protective barrier
21 Packed away
23 Part of UCLA
24 Whatever amount
25 Without a — (broke)
26 1977 Best Picture nominee
28 Host's bane
30 Yoko of music
31 Id counterpart
33 Geneticist's abbr.
34 Command to Fido
39 Runway strutter
41 Additional
42 Just adorable
43 Ottoman Empire VIP
45 Cushions
47 Source
48 Initial stake
49 "Certainly"
51 Born
53 A Bobbsey twin

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | A | M | ■ | H | E | L | P | ■ | Q | U | I | T |
| I | D | O | ■ | U | V | E | A | ■ | U | P | T | O |
| R | O | O | T | B | E | E | R | ■ | E | S | S | E |
| A | S | T | E | R | N | ■ | A | W | L | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | I | T | ■ | G | A | L | O | O | T |
| S | A | L | T | S | ■ | F | O | G | ■ | V | I | A |
| C | L | A | Y | ■ | C | A | N | ■ | W | E | L | L |
| A | T | M | ■ | M | I | X | ■ | M | A | N | S | E |
| T | O | B | O | O | T | ■ | S | A | G | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | P | O | I | ■ | T | R | E | B | L | E |
| R | U | H | R | ■ | Z | O | O | T | S | U | I | T |
| A | S | I | A | ■ | E | N | V | Y | ■ | S | E | C |
| W | A | S | H | ■ | N | E | E | R | ■ | H | U | H |

Yesterday's answer 10-17



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Eminem, 37; Wyclef Jean, 37; Chris Kirkpatrick, 38; Margot Kidder, 61

**Happy Birthday**: Take on whatever challenge comes your way. You have to face facts and be willing to move on. Work may be the necessary evil in your life right now but it can be the path to freedom. Be diligent, organized and well-informed about the task you must perform. This is a great time to turn losses into gains. Your numbers are 3, 11, 14, 25, 28, 36, 47

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Consider whether you can gain from the connections you make or if they will end up costing you emotionally or financially. Make your decisions based on what works for you. Surround yourself with people who accept you as you are. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Dance to your own beat instead of being a follower. If you separate yourself from the crowd, you will be offered something that interests you. Get all the facts and do the math. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): The company you keep will make all the difference when it comes to opportunities to excel. Don't lose sight of what you have to offer. Your charm and competitive drive will lead you to the finish line. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Ignore the little things that are bothering you and you will avoid ruining your day and everyone's plans. Work on a hobby, pamper your own needs or surround yourself with people you can relate to. Trade in frustration for entertainment. ✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make a lasting impression if you get together with friends, neighbors or anyone you want to get to know better. Your lifestyle will attract someone who is looking for a change. A partnership can be started with someone who has as much to offer as you. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may want to consider making a career move or picking up more skills in order to raise your appeal in the professional market. You can update your image in order to present yourself as someone who is forward-thinking. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional instability will set in if you let someone's criticism or complaints get to you. Remove yourself from any situation that is detrimental to your emotional well-being. Gravitate toward people who are supportive, positive and working toward the same goal. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone may be giving you false information or the circumstances may change drastically, making it important for you to make further observations before moving ahead with your plans. A slight change can mean the difference between a small gain and a big one. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You will be entertaining, giving everyone you encounter a feel-good impression. The more people you touch and talk to about your ideas, the more support you will get. Stick to the truth, however. ✪✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Talks will lead to worry about the way things are and where everyone stands on family issues. Not addressing what's going on in your personal life will allow someone to meddle, making matters worse. Speak up. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep busy by getting involved in a community event or going on a jaunt that will lead to a unique destination. The journey you take now, whether it's physical or mental, will aid you in reevaluating your current situation without interference. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Taking on someone else's problems because you don't know how to say no will be a mistake you will live to regret. You face changes of your own that have to be sorted out first or you will lose ground emotionally and financially. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are creative, intelligent and popular. You are a leader who inspires and motivates all with whom you come in contact.

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | | | | | | 5 |
| 8 | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| 1 | | | 4 | | | 7 | 3 | |
| | | | 8 | | 9 | | 6 | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 2 | |
| | 5 | | 2 | | 3 | | | |
| | 3 | 7 | | | 8 | | | 1 |
| 4 | | 2 | | | | | | 8 |
| 5 | | | | | | 6 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/16

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**TAKING PICTURES WITH A CELL PHONE** **Solution: 7 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | S | R | O | L | O | C | A | P | A | C | I | T | Y | T |
| E | N | O | E | S | U | C | O | F | T | W | I | D | T | H |
| C | F | E | F | C | T | C | A | (D) | (N) | (E) | (S) | O | I | G |
| H | S | F | I | T | O | S | O | R | I | E | H | T | L | I |
| N | D | U | E | N | W | R | U | M | R | S | E | I | A | E |
| O | E | C | T | C | E | A | D | J | P | Y | A | D | U | H |
| L | V | L | P | A | T | V | R | A | D | U | V | E | Q | T |
| O | I | U | A | A | T | S | N | E | R | A | T | I | M | E |
| G | C | G | K | T | E | S | L | O | N | E | H | E | E | R |
| Y | E | E | H | T | I | B | T | C | C | S | M | S | R | W |
| P | N | Z | T | T | A | G | E | R | A | O | T | A | K | S |
| O | P | I | R | T | E | S | I | L | E | E | N | E | C | L |
| C | N | S | R | E | L | I | F | D | A | A | A | V | I | O |
| G | N | O | T | T | U | B | I | D | O | O | M | O | L | O |
| U | P | L | O | A | D | V | Y | R | O | M | E | M | C | T |

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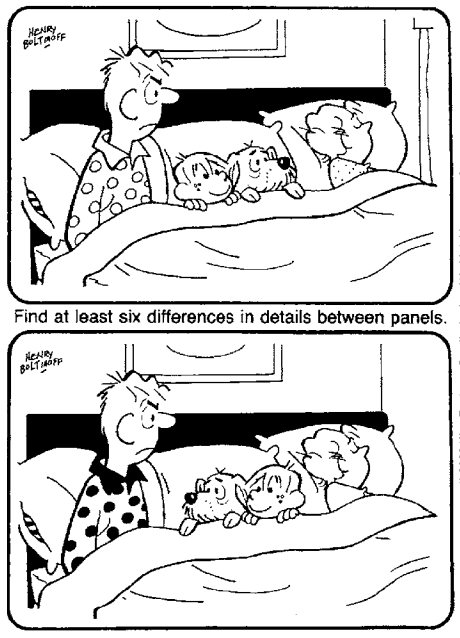
Adjust, Advances, Button, Camera, Capacity, Carry, Click, Colors, Computers, Convenient, Copy, Device, Digital, Edit, Effects, File, Flash, Focus, Height, Light, Memory, Mood, Move, Name, Need, Portable, Print, Quality, Record, Send, Setting, Size, Snapshot, Software, Status, Steady, Stream, Taken, Technology, Time, Tools, Trip, Upload, Video, View, Width

**Yesterday's Answer: Personal**

**Treasury 5 or 7** Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Boy and dog have switched places. 2. Woman's nightgown is different. 3. Curtain is missing. 4. Pajamas are different. 5. Sheet fold is wider. 6. Picture is different.

## Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 |
| N | J | W | O | I | O | A | A | L | N | A | Y | W |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| N | E | T | O | T | U | E | X | S | I | R | D | E |
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 |
| T | I | I | R | B | A | H | D | C | Y | I | A | N |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| W | S | Y | G | S | E | L | T | Y | E | S | Y | O |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| I | A | U | H | Z | I | E | D | M | R | L | A | L |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| C | C | P | T | Y | O | O | U | E | R | W | I | U |
| 3 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| A | O | D | S | I | E | N | R | M | N | E | D | S |

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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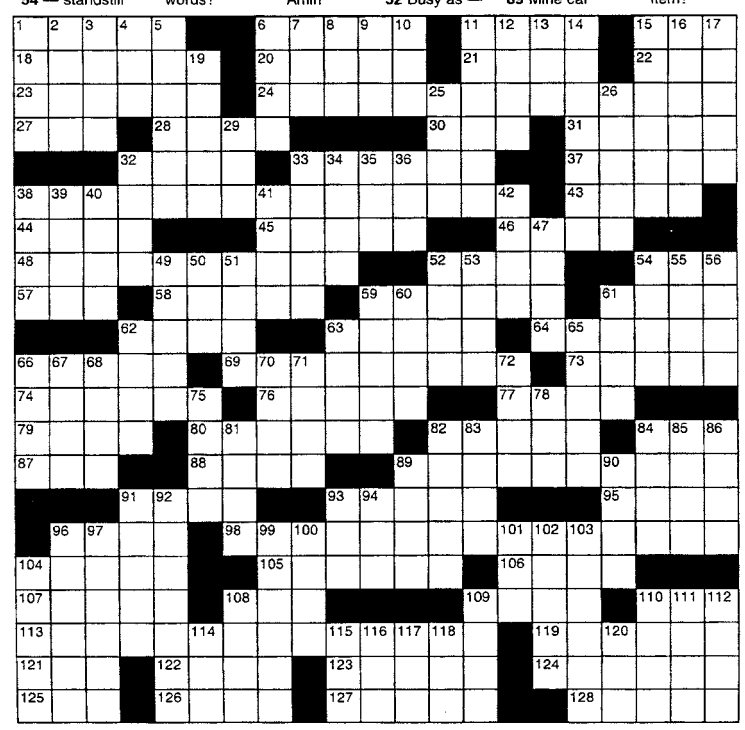
## Super Crossword ON GUARD

**ACROSS**
1 Cook clams
6 Civvies
11 It came from Montana
15 Part of PST
18 Tom's temptation
20 Looked like Lothario?
21 — Rios, Jamaica
22 She's a sheep date
23 Plummer or Pays
24 Riddle: Part 1
27 Encountered
28 Caddie competitor
30 Flicka's food
31 Cliff hanger?
32 The Chipmunks, e.g.
33 Houston athletes
37 Covenants
38 Riddle: Part 2
43 Pindaric poetry
44 Libertine
45 Lo mein land
46 Culp/Cosby series
48 "Three Times a Lady" group
52 Competent
54 — standstill
57 High peak
58 Paris' prize
59 Adulterate
61 Singer Campbell
62 Hard to find
63 Certain horse
64 "Rats!"
66 That's no bull!
69 Riddle: Part 3
73 Stadium
74 Diva Maria
76 Stroll
77 Miami's county
79 Hunky-dory
80 Warns
82 Plankton connoisseur
84 Insert dialogue
87 Pro — (for now)
88 Sunflower st.
89 "Utopia" author
91 Self-smitten
93 Broadcast
95 Gymnast Korbut
96 Grouch
98 Riddle: Part 4
104 Celts
105 Pack up the tent
106 Boot part
107 Cross words?
108 Indian export
109 Hockey's Kolzig
110 Health club
113 Answer to riddle
119 Type of embroidery
121 Porgy part
122 Room without a view?
123 Common contraction
124 622 event
125 Poseidon's domain
126 Model Macpherson
127 Share knowledge
128 Acts like a grandparent

**DOWN**
1 Con game
2 Subdue Simba
3 "L'—, c'est moi"
4 Sheridan or Sothern
5 Violin virtuoso
6 Trims the turf
7 "Not spinach again!"
8 Neighbor of Ga.
9 Asian holiday
10 A mean Amin
11 Fertilizer ingredient
12 Sore
13 Haggard heroine
14 Fountain offering
15 Tenor Jan
16 Expects
17 Turns over
19 Michael of Monty Python
25 Tell's partner
26 Prepared
29 Westminster winner
32 Swarm (with)
33 Wan
34 Goes downhill fast?
35 Decimal base
36 Nutritional abbr.
38 '77 Richard Harris film
39 Mislead
40 Speed —
41 "God's Little —" ('58 film)
42 Art medium
47 Ooze
49 "Butterfield 8" author
50 Strauss' "— Rosenkavalier"
51 Couturier Cassini
52 Busy as —
53 Comic Roseanne
54 — vera
55 "American Bandstand" viewer
56 Novelist Seton
59 Gorp ingredients
60 Narcissus' nymph
61 Skirt shaper
62 Depend (on)
63 "Yo!" at the library
65 Brother of Zeus
66 Glasgow guy
67 Daily receipts
68 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
70 Dentist's directive
71 Head set?
72 Cheeseboard choice
75 Literary pseudonym
78 Chicken — king
81 k.d. of country
82 Baby beagle
83 Wolf wail
84 Barbie, Ken, or Chucky
85 Prod
86 Bracelet bit
89 Mine car
90 Burrowing critter
91 Ruark's "Something of —"
92 "— makes the heart . . ."
93 Wine word
94 — -la-la
96 Stephen King book
97 "Salve —"
99 Swimmer Gertrude
100 Tide type
101 Fashion monogram
102 Teach a tackle
103 Noyes or Nobel
104 Fish hooks
108 Commuter's charge
109 Promise
110 "M*A*S*H" Emmy winner
111 Fifi's father
112 Cry of concern
114 Dolores — Rio
115 Milliner's creation
116 Bonanza material
117 Arthur of "Maude"
118 Stateside Ltd.
120 Inflatable item?



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## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANATOMY: What is the largest bone in the foot?
2. MUSIC: What did the title of the song "Pennsylvania 6-5000" refer to?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the westernmost point in the contiguous United States?
4. LITERATURE: How many daughters did the king have in Shakespeare's play "King Lear"?
5. HISTORY: Who founded the abolitionist newspaper "The North Star"?
6. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "non compos mentis" mean?
7. PSYCHOLOGY: Someone who suffers from didaskaleinophobia would have an abnormal fear of what?
8. COMICS: What is the name of the family dog in the "Dennis the Menace" comic panel?
9. SCIENCE: How fast can a bolt of lightning travel?
10. TELEVISION: In what fictional city does the soap opera "All My Children" take place?

**Answers**

1. The heel bone, or calcaneus
2. A telephone number
3. Cape Alava, Wash.
4. Three
5. Frederick Douglass
6. Not of sound mind
7. Going to school
8. Ruff
9. Up to 130,000 mph.
10. Pine Valley, Pa.

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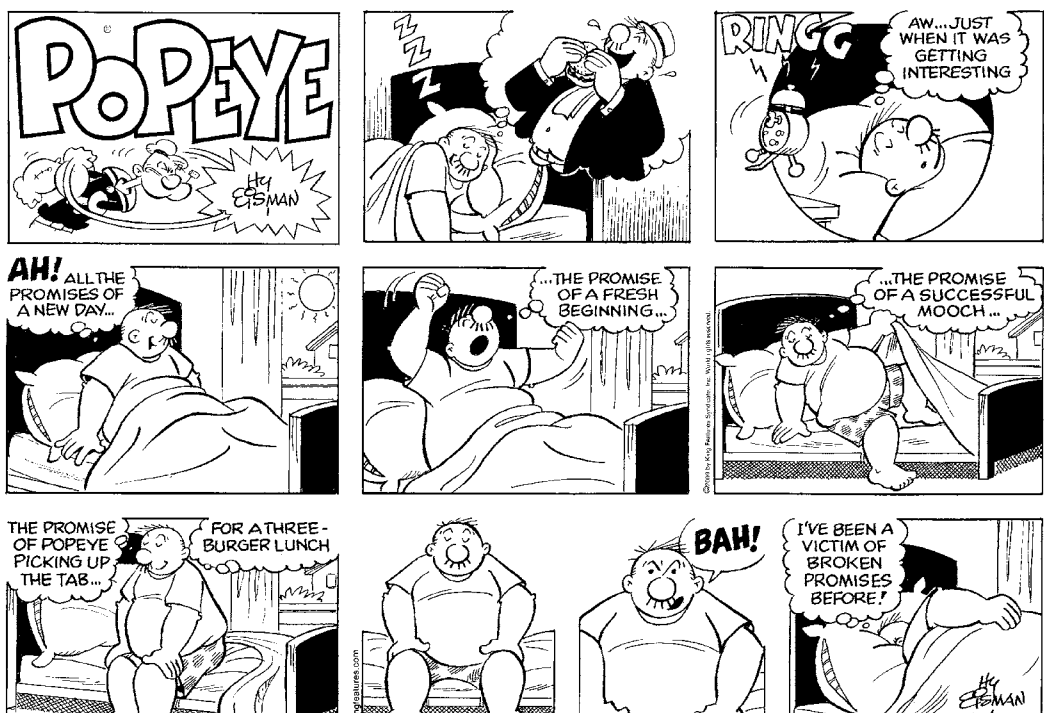
### Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
AH! ALL THE PROMISES OF A NEW DAY...
...THE PROMISE OF A FRESH BEGINNING...
...THE PROMISE OF A SUCCESSFUL MOOCH...
THE PROMISE OF POPEYE PICKING UP THE TAB...
FOR A THREE-BURGER LUNCH
BAH!
I'VE BEEN A VICTIM OF BROKEN PROMISES BEFORE!
RING
AW... JUST WHEN IT WAS GETTING INTERESTING

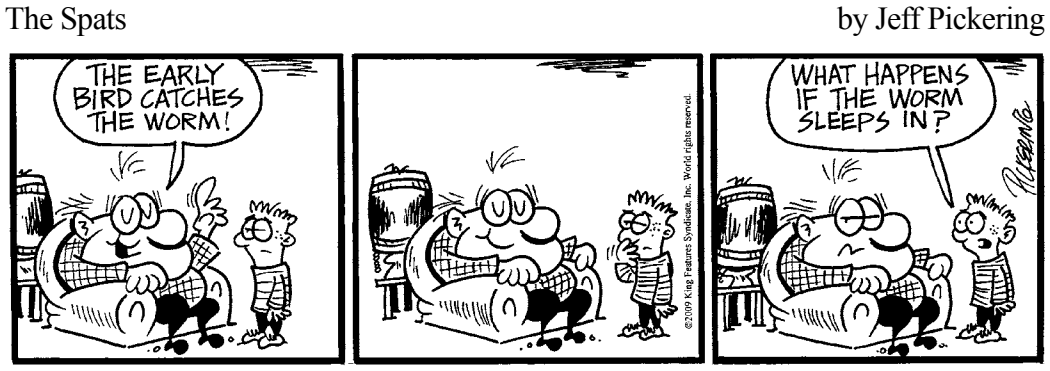
## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

MOM, MOM, I LEARNED IN SCHOOL TODAY ABOUT SNAKES.
THERE IS ONE IN SOUTH AMERICA THAT CAN WRAP AROUND YOU AND SQUEEZE!
NO, THAT SNAKE JUST LIKES TO CUDDLE.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY MOM LIVES ON A DIFFERENT CONTINENT.

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




## They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

JEVER NOTICE? MOVIE MOMENT··· THE GAL HAS FIVE CLOSETS JAMMED WITH CLOTHES··SHE LEAVES HER HUBBY AND WALKS OUT TOTING A SUITCASE ABOUT BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD A TOOTHBRUSH AND A PAIR OF SOCKS···
Thanx to I. DONNELLY, PORTLAND, ORE.
BIG MEN at HOME DEP'T-NEVADA NAT, COWBOY ACTOR, RELAXES AT HOME AFTER A HARD DAY AT THE STUDIO···
BANG! BANG! TAKE THAT! I GOTCHA, DADDY!
A-AWK! D-D-DON'T EVER DO THAT A-A-AGAIN··
Thanx to J. MARCUS, MIAMI, FL.
SOME COLLECT STAMPS··· SOME COLLECT ESTIMATES···
Thanx to EUGENE M., The BRONX, N.Y.
I LIVE AT 44 PISTACHIO LANE··· I'D LIKE AN ESTIMATE··
I'M AT 53··CAN YOU COME OVER NOW AND GIVE ME AN IDEA OF HOW MUCH IT'LL COST?
HOW MUCH IS THIS JOB COSTING?
H-HUH?
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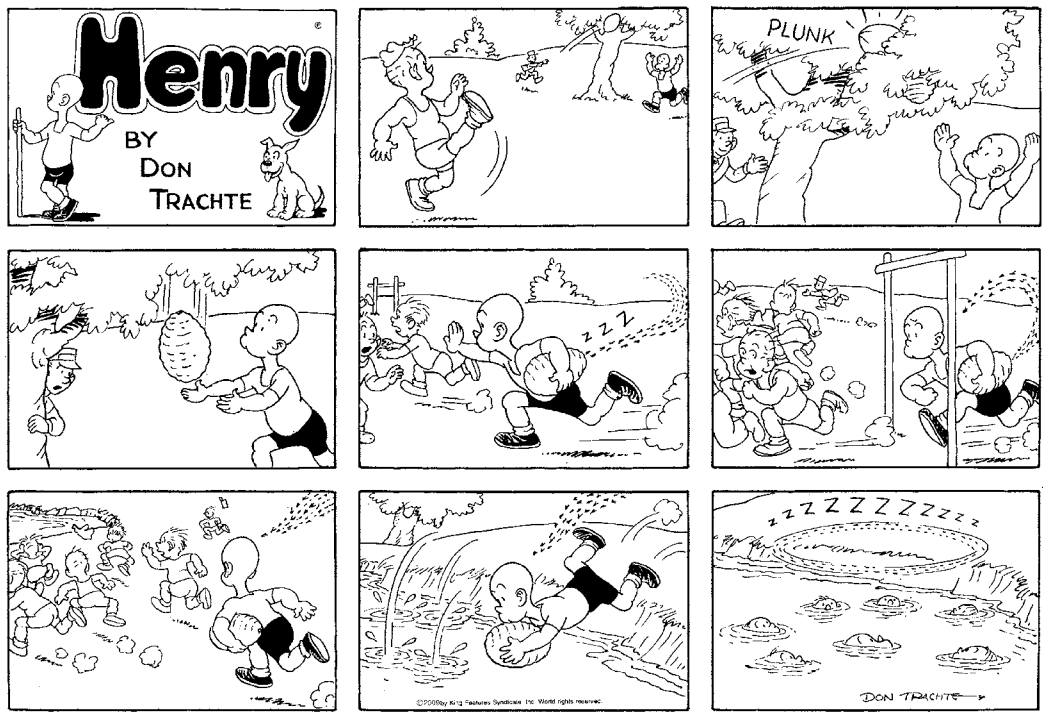

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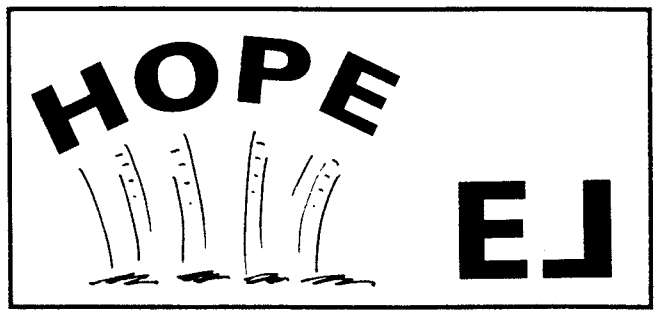


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# Homer-happy Phils beat Dodgers 8-6 in NLCS opener

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Brad Lidge has regained that nasty slider. Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz are stroking big hits. Cole Hamels is winning postseason games without his best stuff. Boy, this is looking real familiar for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Ruiz and Raul Ibanez hit three-run homers, reliever Ryan Madson got a key out and Lidge finished off the Phillies' 8-6 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the NL championship series Thursday night.

"We do have the talent and just that sort of fight, that we're going to do everything we can to get those big hits in those big moments," Hamels said. "Our offense is really what's setting the tone."

Philadelphia took a 2-0 lead in last year's best-of-seven NLCS, beat the Dodgers in five games and went on to win the World Series.

"Well, they had our number today," Dodgers catcher Russell Martin said. "Tomorrow is a different day, and last year is over with."

Manny Ramirez homered, but grounded out weakly with two runners on against a struggling Madson to end the Dodgers' two-run rally in the eighth. Their 14 hits set a club record in a single LCS game, but they stranded 10 runners.

"It's like a prize fight, we just came up a little short," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said.

Lidge worked around a single and a walk in the ninth, helped by a double play that made him for 3 for 3 in save chances this postseason—he posted three saves against the Dodgers in last year's NLCS.

Lidge was perfect in save tries all last year, but led the majors with 11 blown opportunities this season.

"The Dodgers are a great team. They come from behind a lot so you take everyone seriously," he said. "Honestly, for some reason I've really been locked in this postseason. I felt really good mechanically. I feel like myself. I feel pretty comfortable right now."

Home runs dominated on both sides in a game that lasted 4 hours, 2 minutes. Ruiz highlighted a five-run burst in the fifth and Ibanez homered in the eighth for an 8-4 lead as the Dodgers failed to neutralize the Phillies' left-handed hitting.

"The Dodgers aren't going to back down. We know they're going to come in waves and continue to fight, and that's what they did," Howard said. "We just needed that one big hit to kind of get us over the hump, and Carlos came through. We got guys on, and guys came through when we needed big hits."

James Loney also connected for the Dodgers. Ramirez, baseball's all-time postseason home run leader with 29, hit a two-run shot.

Los Angeles will start Vicente Padilla against Philadelphia's Pedro Martinez on Friday afternoon in Game 2.

Hamels thrived under pressure last October, earning NLCS and World Series MVP honors. But the left-hander hardly resembled the same pitcher in earning the victory, giving up a postseason career-high eight hits and two homers. He allowed four runs in 5 1-3 innings.

It was his first outing since he left the ballpark in the division series against Colorado to be with his wife as she prepared to give birth.

"It doesn't look good on paper, but there were a lot of times where the counts were in my favor and I kept them off-balance," Hamels said. "Unfortunately, some of the results weren't there, but in the key situations, I was able to get what I needed."

At 21 years and 211 days, Clayton Kershaw was the youngest pitcher ever to start a Game 1 in a league championship series, and it showed.

The Dodgers lefty was tagged for five runs in the fifth, when he set a LCS record for most wild pitches in an inning with three. He also tied the record for most wild pitches in a LCS game, shared by Tommy John and Juan Guzman.

"The first four innings I felt great, and then I couldn't make adjustments fast enough. In the playoffs, you're not going to have a lot of leverage. If you don't make your pitches, before long you're out of there," he said.

"I just got out of the strike zone a little bit, and that's what happens. They make you pay for that."

Kershaw allowed four hits in 4 2-3 innings and walked five in his second postseason career start. He worked out of the bullpen in last year's NLCS, which the Dodgers lost 4-1 to the Phillies. He was 0-2 with a 5.23 ERA in two starts against them during the regular season.

"It looked like he tried to overthrow the ball, got frustrated out there. Unfortunately, it got away from him quickly," Torre said. "As far as the pressure of the game, he certainly can handle it, but sometimes things get away from you."

The Dodgers' usually solid bullpen couldn't contain the Phils. George Sherrill, their fourth reliever of the game, gave up Ibanez's homer on the first pitch, the first homer off him by a left-handed hitter this year. Howard and Jayson Werth drew consecutive walks to open the eighth.

"I was trying not to do too much, stroke a line drive," Ibanez said. "Fortunately, I got it in the air and it carried out of the park."

The Dodgers got two runs back in the bottom half on Martin's RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Rafael Furcal. They had the tying runs at first and third with two outs, but Madson won a showdown when Ramirez grounded to third.

Kershaw retired five of the previous six batters he faced before the Phillies got to him. Ibanez led off with a single and took second on a wild pitch before Kershaw walked Pedro Feliz. Ruiz sent a 2-1 pitch into the "Mannywood" section in left field for a 3-1 lead.

Jimmy Rollins reached on a fielder's choice, then advanced two bases on consecutive wild pitches. Chase Utley walked and Howard hit a two-run double, extending the Phillies' lead to 5-1. Howard passed Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt with his 17th postseason RBI, most in Phillies' history.

The Dodgers closed to 5-4 with three runs in the bottom half. Ramirez hit his first home run since Sept. 18, a drive into the left-field pavilion off Hamels. Martin, who led off with a double, scored on Andre Ethier's grounder.

Ramirez's RBIs gave him 78 in the postseason, putting him three away from breaking baseball's career record of 80 by Bernie Williams.

Los Angeles threatened in the sixth, loading the bases on consecutive singles by Loney and Ronnie Belliard off Hamels and a two-out walk to pinch-hitter Jim Thome by J.A. Happ. But Happ retired Furcal on a grounder to end the inning.

Loney got his first RBI of this postseason when he drove Hamels' 2-1 pitch just over the right-field fence leading off the second, giving the Dodgers a 1-0 lead.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies closer Brad Lidge throws in the ninth inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the National League Championship baseball series Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, in Los Angeles.

## *Angels meet Yankees for 1st time in ALCS*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Mark Teixeira remembers calling Torii Hunter last winter.

"After I signed with the Yankees, I said, `You know, good luck to you guys. Hopefully, we'll see you in the ALCS,'" Teixeira recalled.

And then he repeated the message when Hunter reached first base during the first series between the teams in May.

"I'm like, `OK, I like that,'" Hunter told his former teammate. "And now we're here."

Having dispatched the Yankees in the first round of the playoffs in 2002 and 2005, the Angels meet New York for the first time in the AL championship series starting—weather permitting—Friday night.

John Lackey pitches for the high-flying Angels, who won their fifth AL West title in six seasons under manager Mike Scioscia and then swept wild-card Boston in the division series.

Back in the postseason after missing out in 2008, New York swept Minnesota to reach the ALCS for the first time in five years and goes with CC Sabathia, who could get three starts in the best-of-seven matchup.

"Maybe we're going to face CC seven times this series," Scioscia joked. "It depends on how much rain we get."

Sabathia could have been pitching Game 1 for the Angels. When the big lefty was a free agent after last season, Hunter recruited him for Los Angeles. They had gotten to know each other in the AL Central when Sabathia pitched for the Indians and Hunter played for the Twins.

"He's one of my buddies in the game," the effervescent outfielder said. "He's throwing up and in, 97, 98 mph, under my chin, shaving my goatee, and then we go to dinner and talk about it and laugh."

Hunter praised the Yankees, saying they're tough because of what he said was their "$10 billion payroll."

OK, OK. He admitted that's an exaggeration of the actual $201 million opening-day figure. Still, that dwarfs the Angels' $114 million outlay.

Not that it's made a difference on the field. At 73-63, the Angels are the only AL club with a winning regular-season record against the Yankees since 1996.

New York had the best record in the major leagues during the regular season at 103-59, and the Angels were second at 97-65. The teams split 10 games.

"I don't know if you're ever going to be able to measure yourself against an organization like the Yankees. It might take a century before you would get there," Scioscia said. "But I think our guys feel good at the way they go about their business, the way that they play the game hard, the way that they push the game and the way they bring every aspect to baseball which makes this game beautiful on to the field."

Speaking of beautiful, the weather won't be.

New York worked out in a drizzle Thursday morning. The Angels put on red ski caps and red sweat shirts, looking a bit like burglars in Day-Glo, but didn't hit on the field during the afternoon rain.

Friday's gametime forecast called for drizzle, a 41-degree temperature and 15-20 mph wind that would make it feel as if it were 25, according to AccuWeather.com.

"Yankee weather," New York catcher Jorge Posada said. "It seems like every time we come home it's been raining."

Definitely a night that could have both teams California dreamin'.

"I'm in LA. It's beautiful out there," Hunter said.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said the longest he would let Sabathia sit during a rain delay and return to the mound would be 45 minutes—unless he keeps throwing every 10 minutes in the fancy new batting cage behind the team's dugout. Sabathia wasn't worried about any uncertainty over whether there would be a game Friday night.

"I'm pretty relaxed and hanging out," he said. "It just gives me lot of time to play RBI," a reference to a baseball video game he plays on Nintendo.

Alex Rodriguez hit as if he were an animated player against the Twins, batting .455 (5 for 11) with two homers and six RBIs. That's a total turnaround from his performance against the Angels in the 2005 division series, when he was 2 for 15 with no RBIs and six walks.

Lackey will start for Los Angeles after pitching 7 1-3 shutout innings last week in the Angels' postseason opener against Boston. He faced the Yankees once this year, allowing two runs over seven inning in a July 12 win.

"I'm not going to get intimidated by anybody," he said. "That's why I'm throwing tomorrow."

# Limbaugh blasts critics after losing bid for Rams

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Conservative radio personality Rush Limbaugh lashed out at NFL union leader DeMaurice Smith, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and the media a day after being dropped from a group trying to buy the St. Louis Rams. On his syndicated show Thursday, Limbaugh said he was approached by St. Louis Blues chairman Dave Checketts earlier this year about participating in a Rams bid. Checketts assured him his involvement as a minority investor had been vetted by the NFL, he said.

"I said to him at this meeting, 'Are you aware of the firestorm?' He said 'We wouldn't have approached you if we hadn't taken care of that,'" said Limbaugh, a conservative favorite who is reviled by many liberals.

Limbaugh added that Checketts had told him his involvement had been cleared at the "highest levels of the NFL."

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and Colts owner Jim Irsay each expressed misgivings this week at a league-wide meeting about Limbaugh's involvement, with Goodell saying Limbaugh had made "polarizing" comments and Irsay vowing to vote against him. On Wednesday, Checketts said Limbaugh had been dropped from the bid.

During a 15-minute counterattack at the start of his show, Limbaugh said he believes he's been made an example by a players' union seeking leverage in talks over a new collective bargaining agreement. What happened to him was an illustration of "Obama's America on full display," the commentator said.

Limbaugh's history hurt his participation in the bid. In 2003, he was forced to resign from ESPN's Sunday night football broadcast after saying of the Eagles' Donovan McNabb: "I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well."

AP

This photo provided by Rush Limbaugh shows Limbaugh in his Palm Beach, Fla. radio studio, the last week of Sept., 2009.

According to transcripts posted on his Web site, in 2007 Limbaugh said: "The NFL all too often looks like a game between the Bloods and the Crips without any weapons. There, I said it."

Limbaugh blamed Smith, executive director of the NFLPA and an "Obamaite," along with Sharpton and Jackson, whom he referred to as "race hustlers," for Checketts' decision to drop him. He said his sacking was an example of the political clout wielded by President Barack Obama's administration.

"What is happening to the National Football League, what is about to happen to it, has already happened to Wall Street, has already happened to the automobile business," Limbaugh said.

Limbaugh said he was victimized in the media by "misreporting, lying, repeating the lies while also saying 'Limbaugh denies,' repeating the made-up quotes, the blind hatred."

"Believe me, the hatred that exists in this is found in the sports writer community, it's found in the news business, it's found in the race hustler business," Limbaugh said.

Limbaugh said Checketts telephoned on Tuesday, asking him to withdraw from the group. Limbaugh responded that he wouldn't withdraw and that Checketts would have to "go public and fire me," and thought the news would be made public Thursday morning.

Smith, the NFLPA head, last week voiced his objections to Limbaugh's bid with Goodell, and urged players to speak out. Sharpton and Jackson also attacked Limbaugh's involvement, asserting that Limbaugh's track record on race should exclude him.

Limbaugh said the real reason he's out is the NFLPA's attempt to influence negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. "It's designed to intimidate the owners, frighten the owners, and say 'We're running this league now, gang, not you,'" Limbaugh said.

Limbaugh said he's "lost nothing" over the episode and vowed to continue being the "biggest non-paid promoter of the sport."

The Checketts group is among a reported half-dozen bidders for the Rams, and would keep the team in St. Louis. The children of the late Georgia Frontiere, who inherited the team upon her death in January 2008, announced in June that they had hired the investment firm Goldman Sachs to review assets of the estate, including the football team.

# LeBron, Cavaliers battling flu

**INDEPENDENCE, Ohio** (AP)—LeBron James didn't get any sympathy from his teammates when he came back to work after spending two days sick in bed.

They ran the other way.

"You come back around and everyone is like, 'Ugh, you got the cooties,'" James said Thursday. "They don't want to be around you."

James and two Cleveland teammates have tested positive for Influenza A, and are being treated as if they have the H1N1 virus by the Cavaliers, who are being proactive in dealing with a flu bug that already has sickened six players.

H1N1, also known as swine flu, is a strain of Influenza A, and though the Cavaliers have not gotten back H1N1 test results on James, Darnell Jackson or Coby Karl, the team is treating all its players and the traveling party to Texas with medication to fight the virus.

Team physician Dr. Alfred Cianflocco met with the team at Cleveland Clinic Courts to discuss preventive measures on how to stop the flu from spreading.

"We feel very comfortable and confident that what we are doing is an appropriate course of action," Cavs spokesman Tad Carper said. "The key for us is to approach things proactively and from a presumptive standpoint."

James, Jackson and Karl were tested for H1N1 at the Cleveland Clinic. Carper did not know when the results will be known. All three players missed Wednesday's exhibition against Washington but are traveling with the Cavs for preseason games in San Antonio on Friday and Dallas on Saturday. James believes he will be able to play in one of the games.

Forward J.J. Hickson and guard Andre Barrett are not making the Texas trip.

Jackson said the flu hit him hard. He had a high fever and slept 22 straight hours.

"I can't remember ever being that sick," he said.

James was still congested as he talked about having to spend the past two days lying in bed. He said he drank over a gallon of water each day.

"I think I'm over it now," he said.

James believes he may have gotten the flu from the shot he and his teammates got recently to fight the virus. He said his two young sons have not shown any symptoms of being sick.

The flu bug has been a minor disruption for Cleveland's training camp, which is winding down as the club prepares for its Oct. 27 season opener against Boston.

"If it's going to happen, now is the best time," James said. "I don't wish anyone to be sick. I wish great health for everyone. But if this is the time the flu bug is going to hit our team, I'm glad it's happening now."

Cavs guard Delonte West, who has spent time away from the club this month while dealing with personal and legal issues, traveled with the team to Texas. West is being treated for bipolar disorder and has pending misdemeanor weapons charges after he was arrested in Maryland carrying three loaded guns.

# *You make the call:* NBA *launches video rulebook*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Ever see a referee call a charge on a play you swore was a block? Or insist LeBron James took an extra step on his way to the rim?

If so, it's time to go to the videotape.

The NBA launched a video rulebook Thursday, a site where fans can watch clips of plays accompanied by explanations of the rules.

Stu Jackson, the league's executive vice president of basketball operations, said the rulebook, found at http://www.nba.com/videorulebook , would be "a place of reference for everyone with respect to how our games are officiated."

The site, which Jackson said was about 1 1/2 years in the making and thought was the first of its kind, offers fans some of the same training officials get. Jackson said many of the approximately 150 plays included were previously used in referee development.

"It's very difficult unless you've played the game at a very high level, or better yet officiated the game at a very high level, to understand the complexity of our rules strictly by reading them," Jackson said during a conference call. "By adding a written explanation as well as video examples, it just gives the person time to gain more knowledge about the rules or context, and hopefully a little bit more data and therefore education."

The site features 11 sections, with Jackson figuring the ones covering block/charge and traveling would get the most usage because those were two of the hardest for officials on the court to call accurately. One clip shows James taking a third step, one more than allowed, after gathering the ball to end his dribble.

When a category is selected, a play or series of plays is listed. When one is picked, the video plays while a written interpretation of the rule appears on the side of the screen. The videos don't include volume, which in some instances likely prevented a broadcaster from hearing himself describe a call incorrectly.

Jackson said the league will try to keep the site current, updating it with additional plays that warrant explanation. Some of the videos might be familiar to fans, such as a couple of flagrant fouls from last season's playoffs.

The debut of the video rulebook comes at a time when NBA officiating is being watched closely and open to more criticism than usual. The league is currently using replacement referees while its regular staff is locked out during a labor dispute, but Jackson dismissed the notion that starting the site now was a bold move.

"Launching the video rulebook at this time made some sense just prior to the opening of the regular season, and doing so without anticipation that we'd be using replacement referees," Jackson said.

"Certainly officiating this game is very difficult, we all know that. And whether we're using replacement referees or our normal staff referees, they're going to make mistakes and that's true now and certainly will be true if the regular referees come back to work."

Jackson isn't worried about a call being made incorrectly in a game, then getting a rash of complaints from fans who knew it was wrong from watching a similar play on video.

"That's going to happen, we understand that," Jackson said, "but in our minds the best interest of the fans outweighs any potential miscues between what's called and what's on our video rulebook site."

# Will Pacquiao-Mayweather superfight happen?

## Bob Arum and Freddie Roach have doubts

By JAMES SLATER
EAST SIDE BOXING

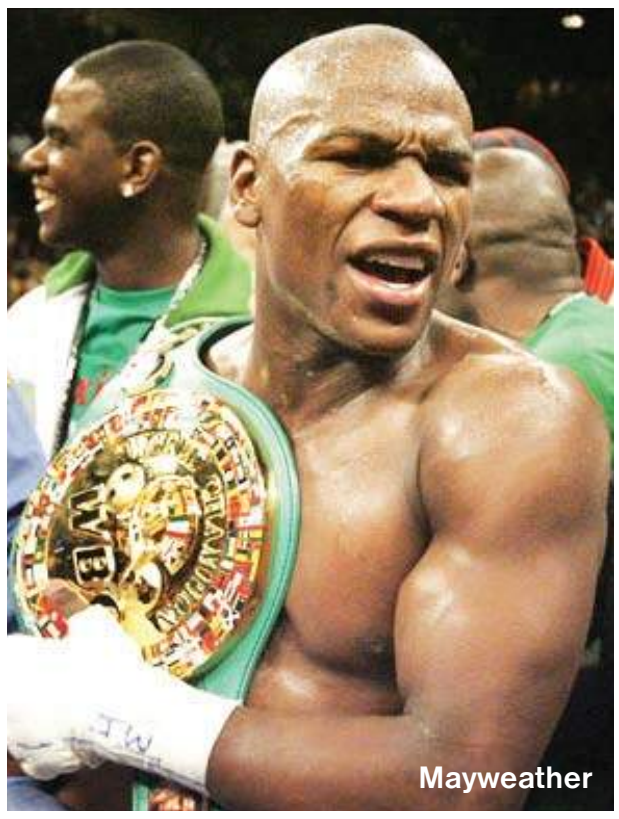
Simply put, it's the fight everyone interested in the sport of boxing wants to see; Manny Pacquiao Vs. Floyd Mayweather Junior—the battle for pound-for-pound supremacy. Since even before "Money's" short-lived retirement, the fans have been asking what would happen if the man who took his spot at the very top of the sport were to face him in the ring.

As natural a fight as the great ones that defined previous eras when it comes to the lower weight classes, Pacquiao-Mayweather could be as big, and as great, as Ray Leonard-Tommy Hearns, Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor and many other classics you could mention.. But—and it's a question that is a tough one to ask—will this particular mega-fight actually take place?

Depressingly, two men who know more than most with regards to this question—in "Pac-Man's" promoter Bob Arum and his trainer Freddie Roach—seem to think the fight is a long shot to go ahead.

In a recent interview with The Ring, Arum said the following:

"I don't think [Pacquiao-Mayweather] will happen within the next year because of all of Mayweather's posturing, the trash talk. That impedes any realistic negotiations. It would just be too difficult."


Mayweather

Arum has also gone on record as saying the demands Mayweather seems unwilling, maybe incapable, of backing down from will also make the fight a no go. "Money" wants a 60-40 split in his favour, as does "Pac-Man." Arum says no way will Floyd get the lion's share of the purse, as he is not the draw; Manny is. Of course, we can cross our fingers and hope the two fighters agree to take an even 50-50 split, but it doesn't look likely.

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, joins Arum in doubting whether the must-see fight will actually get to be seen.

"It seems like there's a lot of things working against this fight ever happening," Roach told The L.A Times recently. "It makes sense. It would be a great fight, but it seems there's a lot of distractions around it. I don't think it's going to happen."

As maddening as the thought of never getting to see this potentially unforgettable fight is, we must try and stay at least a little optimistic. Remember, there was once talk that the much sought after Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton fight would not go ahead due to arguments over the purse split. In the end, sanity prevailed and both sides realised how important the fight was and came to an agreement. As financially huge as Pacquiao-Mayweather would be, surely egos can be put aside, at least for a time?

One thing that must be said, however, is that Miguel Cotto, as great as HE is, is being done a disservice by all the talk of whether or not a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight will happen due to the money issue. It could well be that the 2010 mega-fight doesn't happen, but due to an entirely different reason: Cotto defeats Pacquiao on November 14th!

If that did happen (and a number of good judges feel it might) all this talk about Pacquiao-Mayweather would probably become irrelevant. All talk then would shift towards Cotto Vs. Mayweather. Would that be a superfight that could be made?

## *Pacquiao: I'm 70 percent ready*

**MANILA, Philippines**—Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao already looks impressive in training, but is admittedly far from his best form.

In his Philboxing column on Thursday, Pacquiao put himself at 70 percent ready to do battle with Miguel Cotto for the Puerto Rican's World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

In his assessment, Pacquiao feels that he is peaking just right, with no weight problem whatsoever.

Those who saw Pacquiao spar with former two-time world champion Jose Luis Castillo in Baguio City for the first time on Tuesday swore that the pound-for-pound king dominated the three-round scrimmage.

Sticking to his original schedule, Pacquiao, along with chief trainer Freddie Roach, conditioning expert Alex Ariza and assistant coaches Buboy Fernandez, Dodie Boy Penalosa and Nonoy Neri, will leave for Los Angeles on Oct. 24.

Pacquiao, who is gunning for a record seventh world crown, including a lineal title, will train at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood from Oct. 26 to Nov. 8 before heading for Las Vegas to wrap up his training.

Cotto has entered his eighth week of training at The Fight Factory Gym in Tampa, Florida. ***(PDI)***

## WOMEN

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for Fisingan and are supported by youth players Michael Supuleda, Jay Kang, Sophie Mindach, and Brian Somol. Fisingan absorbed its second loss in a row, as it also bowed to Random Radicals last week.

Random Radicals are still unbeaten in four games, following a 2-1 victory over O-No in the second game on Thursday.

The Quincy Johnson-captained Random Radicals had a cruise in the first set, 21-14, before O-No bounced back in the second set with a 21-14 triumph. Random Radicals then regrouped in the deciding set to pull off a 15-6 win.

O-No failed to nail a come-from-behind win as it lacked manpower, having only one male player, Dae Won Jeon, going up against the male spikers of Random Radicals. O-No team captain Dan Westphal is still off-island, while Trent Schibe had a work commitment when they played Random Radicals.

With Schibe and Westphal out, Jeon had to rely on female players Jen Backhaus, Megan Statkus, Cassie Halberson, and Laurie Peterka.

Meanwhile, action in the fall league resumes next week with the league-leading Pwipwise taking on Shogunai in the first game at 5:30pm. In the second game at 6:30pm, Just Do It will collide against Special Delivery, while in the third match at 7:30pm, Git It will duel Angamwas.

## NMBA

*From Page 28*

Pepeng, which hit the Philippines last month and early this month, causing deaths and damaging properties in the main cities and the northern part of the country.

The fundraiser started last night with a women's doubles event. The men's doubles competition will be played tonight from 6pm to 10pm at the REM Centre in Gualo Rai, while mixed doubles action is set for tomorrow.

NMBA membership committee head Hapi Gabriel said they are hoping to raise between $300 to $400 from the weekend tournament. Funds will come from the entrance fee, which is $10 per player.

"All monies collected will be given to Sagip Kapamilya to help victims of the two typhoons that hit the Philippines," Gabriel said.

NMBA members, who can't make it to the three-day tournament, but still want to give monetary donation are welcome.

"This (fundraiser) is our small way of assisting families affected by the typhoon. We, members and officials of Northern Marianas Badminton Association, are not only pushing for the promotion of sports and healthy lifestyle, but also for humanitarian activities that would benefit those in need," NMBA tournament director Macoi Aguda.

Next up for NMBA after the fundraiser will be its annual team tournament, which is expected to start next month. The team tournament features men's and women's doubles, singles, and mixed doubles events.

The association just concluded the 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament last week. The month-long tournament had competitions in the men's singles A,B, and C, women's singles B, and mixed doubles A, B, and C divisions.

Making it to the champions' list of the IT&E-supported tournament were Aguda, Rodwealth Espana, Keno San Pablo, Ferdie Arago, Janis Parcon, Merlie Tolentino, Joey Algenio, and Riza Yutuc.

## RGA

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Law Office of Colin Thompson, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Aquarius Beach Tower, Pacific Islands Club, Coca-Cola, DFS Saipan, Ed Santos, Ray S. Tenorio, Rep. Tom Tebuteb, and Ben Cabrera.

Next weekend's tournament will have a double peoria format with the champion receiving $500. The runner-up will get $400, third place $300, fourth place $200, and fifth and sixth places $100 apiece.

Besides the cash prizes for the Top 6 placers, RGA will also award $200 each to the winners in the lowest gross for men and women categories. Cash and gift certificates also await winners in the skills challenge (holes No. 6 and 15) and closest to the pin (holes No. 3, 8, and 12) contest.

Mulligans will be available at $5 each, with players allowed to buy only two. No restriction will be used from tee to green.

Entrance fee for the RGA Memorial Classic is $80 and it is open to all golfers in the CNMI. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Tanapag Elementary School. In last year's fundraising tournament, RGA donated proceeds to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Check-in time for the Oct. 24 golfest is at 6am, while tee off is set for 7:30am.

For more information, contact RGA president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506, Tony Rogolofoi at 288-3515, or Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

## PILCOWA

*From Page 28*

tor, and UFO champion Chow Queen.

Muleta said they need at least three more teams to get the ball rolling for the open division. They are also looking for a sponsor for the league.

The masters division had already attracted eight teams. Muleta said they might start the masters action first while waiting for teams in the open division. However, Muleta added they are still hoping that both divisions will begin action on the same opening day.

Games in the PILCOWA caging are scheduled for Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday with teams in the masters division playing in the first game and open division squads colliding in the second match.

Muleta is calling on all coaches/representatives of teams to attend a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 6:30pm at the pavilion across the JP Centre to discuss other developments in the league and the participating teams' concerns.

The league coordinator is also reminding teams to pay the entrance fee of $500 and submit a copy of their rosters a week before the league starts. In the masters division, teams must submit a proof of age eligibility. The masters division is open only to players in the 37-and-above age group.

The Top 3 teams in all divisions are guaranteed to receive trophies at the conclusion of the league, while top individual performers will also be recognized at the awards ceremony.

Last year in the inaugural season of the league, Diamond Auto Care took the championship trophy after beating MIGS in double overtime, 101-99.

Sonny Ranola, who canned the winning jumper for Diamond, was adjudged finals MVP, while MIGS' Bonbon Cadagat took the regular season MVP plum.

Other individual awardees were Mythical Team members Elmer Esdrelon of Diamond, Kae Barnardo of MIGS, Larry Palero of Century, and Jericho Cruz of C&R Distributors/NRG.

For more information on the PILCOWA caging, contact Muleta at 285-9783.

**Homer-happy Phils beat Dodgers 8-6 in NLCS opener**

Brad Lidge has regained that nasty slider. Ryan Howard and Carlos Ruiz are stroking big hits. Cole Hamels is winning postseason games without his best stuff. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Limbaugh blasts critics after losing bid for Rams**

Conservative radio personality Rush Limbaugh lashed out at NFL union leader DeMaurice Smith, Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and the media a day after being dropped from a group trying to buy the St. Louis Rams. 26



# Women power lifts Angamwas past Manta Diver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With its two male players still unavailable, Angamwas leaned on the female trio of Kim Peterson, Linda Anastacio, and Cleo Menign to down Manta Diver in the 2009 PIC/Miller/Gatorade/Monster-NMI-FA 4-Person Co-Ed Beach Volleyball Fall League on the PIC sandcourt.

The three female players complemented Luther Taylor and Bruce Berline's power-hitting game to help Angamwas sweep Manta Diver in three sets. Taylor and Berline were the only two male players who suited up for Angamwas on Thursday night as Rex Jose is still injured and Adam Hardwicke has yet to return to the island.

In the 4-person league, teams must have at least one female player on the court at all times.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Linda Anastacio, seen here stretching to return the ball, while teammate Bruce Berline looks on, was one of the female players who stepped up for Angamwas during their game against Manta Diver in the NMIVA league on Thursday night on the PIC sandcourt.

However, with its depleted lineup, Angamwas was forced to field two male and two female players on the court and still won with Peterson, Anastacio, and Menign alternately setting up Berline and Taylor on the net and chasing loose balls.

Angamwas took the first seat easily, 21-11, before Manta Diver threatened an upset in the second set, but fell short, as the former still prevailed, 21-18. Angamwas completed the sweep with a 15-6 triumph in the third set to recover from a loss against Chenutt Crew last week.

Chenutt Crew continued its winning ways in the fall league after outclassing Fisingan in the third game, 2-1.

Chenutt Crew is now on a four-game winning streak following an 18-21, 21-18, 15-12 victory over Fisingan.

The high-flying Typhoon Saito is Chenutt Crew's captain and is teaming up with Kgen Hall, Won Cho, J.R. Gechig, Scotty Silva, and J.J. Lewis.

Veterans Jazz Roskow, Mili Saiki, and Benilyn Mettao play

*See WOMEN on page 27*

# NMBA hosts 'Smash for a Cause'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Badminton Association has started its fundraising tournament, dubbed "Smash for a Cause," for victims of typhoons in the Philippines.

"Smash for a Cause" is a three-day tournament with all proceeds to be donated to the victims of typhoon Ondoy and

*See NMBA on page 27*

Aries Cordero in action during a game in the 2009 IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament last month at the REM Centre.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

# PILCOWA caging opening reset for Nov. 8

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association has rescheduled the opening of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League, anew, from Oct. 25 to Nov. 8.

League coordinator Fando Muleta said the new opening date will give teams more time to prepare for the event and look for sponsors. This was the third time that the league, which was originally set to begin early this month, reset its kick-off date.

"The target this time is Nov. 8. We feel that by next month, all teams will be ready and we can resume basketball action at the JP Centre Building Basketball Court," Muleta said.

This year's PILCOWA caging, which will be the league's second season, will feature competitions in the open and masters divisions.

According to Muleta, there are already four confirmed teams for the open division. They are defending champion Diamond Auto Care of coach Boy Garcia, runner-up MIGS/IT&E, Advance X-Termina-

*See PILCOWA on page 27*

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MIGS' Bonbon Cadagat goes for a left-handed layup against Diamond Auto Care's Elmer Esdrelon during their title game in last year's PILCOWA caging at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

# RGA Memorial Classic draws support

It is all system go for the 2009 RGA Memorial Classic, as the fundraiser drew a lot of support from individuals and private companies in the CNMI.

Refaluwasch Golfers Association tournament director Jess Wabol said the tournament set for Oct. 24 at the Kingfisher Golf Links has already received help from more than 10 companies and several individuals.

The list include Saipan Shipping, Coral Ocean Point, Bank of Guam, McDonald's, First Hawaiian Bank, the

*See RGA on page 27*

RGA president Jordon Kosam, seen here teeing off at the Kingfisher Golf Links, invites golfers to participate in next weekend's 2009 RGA Memorial Classic.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO